

NGO Statement in Support of a House Foreign Affairs Committee Briefing from Former Special Envoy Daniel Foote

We have posted the original signatures. But additional endorsees welcome, please sign [here](#).

The undersigned organizations welcome and endorse the announcement by Rep. Gregory Meeks, Chair of the House Foreign Relations Committee, of a public Virtual [Briefing](#) with Ambassador Daniel Foote, on Thursday, October 7 at 2 ET. Ambassador Foote resigned as the State Department's Special Envoy to Haiti on September 21, 2021. The briefing is critical to ensuring a U.S. foreign policy towards Haiti that is effective and consistent with the U.S. government's expressed priority of supporting human rights and democracy abroad and at our borders.

Ambassador Foote's resignation [letter](#) noted that the U.S. "policy approach to Haiti remains deeply flawed." It explained:

[W]hat our Haitian friends really want, and need, is the opportunity to chart their own course, without international puppeteering Last week, the U.S. and other embassies in Port-au-Prince issued another public statement of support for the unelected, de facto Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry as interim leader of Haiti, and have continued to tout his political agreement over another broader, earlier accord shepherded by civil society. The hubris that makes us believe we should pick the winner - again - is impressive. This cycle of international political interventions in Haiti has consistently produced catastrophic results. More negative impacts to Haiti will have calamitous consequences not only in Haiti, but in the U.S. and our neighbors in the hemisphere.

Ambassador Foote also criticized the "inhumane, counterproductive decision to deport thousands of Haitian refugees...."

As organizations that collaborate with Haitians working to advance democracy and human rights in their country, we share Ambassador Foote's critique of international political interventions that have contributed to Haiti's current crisis. More importantly, so do our Haitian collaborators and a broad spectrum of Haitian society. We believe that the House Foreign Affairs Committee briefing is essential for the Committee to fulfill its role of [oversight](#) over U.S. foreign policy and the operations of the Department of State. We also believe that a public briefing can help shape U.S. policies that will support a democratic, sustainable, Haitian-led solution to the current political crisis.

We urge the House Foreign Affairs Committee to pay particular attention to Ambassador Foote's concern that the U.S. government is inappropriately supporting Prime Minister Ariel Henry's political agreement over a [broader, earlier accord shepherded by Haiti's civil society](#). We also note that the Committee heard directly from Haitian civil society members during a productive

March 12 [briefing](#), and urge the Committee to continue to engage directly with Haitian civil society representatives.

Sincerely,

Ansara Family Fund

Beyond Borders

Build Health International

Center for Economic and Policy Research

Center for Gender & Refugee Studies

Defend Haiti Democracy

Global Justice Clinic, Washington Square Legal Services

GOALS Haiti

Haiti Dream Keeper Archives

Haiti H2O: Hope to Opportunity

Haiti Response Coalition

Haitian Bridge Alliance

Haitian United Front of the Haitian Diaspora

Haitian-American Diaspora Council (HADiC)

Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH)

Li Li LI Read

Massachusetts Communities Action Network

Partners In Health

Project Blueprint

Quixote Center

Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center

SSND Atlantic Midwest JPIC Department

The Haitian Women's Collective

UndocuBlack Network

Unlocking Communities

Witness at the Border

[signature form [here](#)]