

Advocacy

The suspension or reduction of U.S. foreign aid can have devastating consequences, impacting vital institutions like Ramallah Friends School in Palestine and Lugulu Friends Mission Hospital in Kenya. At this time, they need Friends advocating with local and state representatives and other brokers of influence on their behalf. The following information may guide you in any advocacy work on behalf of FUM.

1. Know Your Audience: Identify Your Representatives

- Determine who your U.S. Senators and Representatives are. You can find this information by visiting [usa.gov](https://www.usa.gov) and entering your address.
- Research their stance on foreign aid, humanitarian assistance, and education/healthcare initiatives. This will help you tailor your message effectively.
- Identify staff members in their offices who handle foreign affairs, education, or health policy. Staffers can help open doors and are key influencers.

2. Craft Compelling Messaging

- Personalize your message: Start by explaining why this issue matters to you and your community. Are you an alumnus or supporter of Ramallah Friends School? Have you visited or supported Lugulu Friends Mission Hospital? A personal connection makes your plea more impactful. Why is it important to you?
- Highlight the human impact: Focus on the real people who will be affected by aid reductions. Share stories of students who benefit from scholarships at Ramallah Friends School or patients who rely on the healthcare services provided by Lugulu Friends Mission Hospital.
- Emphasize the positive outcomes of US foreign aid: Demonstrate how US foreign aid supports stability, promotes education and health, and advances US interests abroad. Explain how these institutions contribute to those goals.
- Use clear and concise language: Avoid jargon, technical, or political terms. Use simple and straightforward language to explain the issue and its importance.
- Provide concrete data: Back up your claims with facts and figures. State the number of students impacted by losing US aid or specific services the Lugulu Friends Mission Hospital provides.
- End with a clear request: What do you want your representative to do?

3. Choose Your Advocacy Methods

- Write letters and emails: This is a direct way to communicate your concerns. Keep your letters concise and focused, and personalize each one.

- Make phone calls: Calling is another impactful way to make your voice heard. Be polite and prepared to deliver your message concisely.
- Schedule meetings: Request a meeting with your representative or their staff. This provides an opportunity for a more in-depth discussion.
- Participate in town hall meetings: Attend town hall meetings and ask questions about U.S. foreign aid and its impact.

4. Be Persistent and Polite

- Advocacy is an ongoing process. Don't give up after one attempt.
- Follow up with your representatives after you've contacted them.
- Always be respectful and courteous, even if you disagree with your representative's views.
- Be truthful.

Advocacy Tips Specific to Ramallah Friends School and Lugulu Friends Mission Hospital:

- Highlight the institution's long-standing commitment to education and service. Emphasize their history and contributions to their communities.
- Emphasize the role of these institutions in promoting peace and understanding. Explain how they foster cross-cultural dialogue and understanding.
- Share success stories. Highlight examples of students who have thrived thanks to their education at Ramallah Friends School or patients whose lives have been saved by the Lugulu Friends Mission Hospital.

In addition, the [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) has provided some helpful links with suggestions for speaking out about the importance of foreign aid. Here's the latest update from the FCNL peacebuilding lobbyist, Ursula Knudsen-Latta: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2025-02/foreign-aid-terminations-endanger-millions-home-and-abroad>. FCNL also has an action alert here, <https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/108117/>, which makes it easy for you to contact your elected officials and a suggested letter, which you can add to and edit. FCNL is also encouraging people to write letters to newspaper and magazine editors on this issue: [Speak up for foreign aid | Friends Committee On National Legislation](#).