



Public Affairs Section

U. S. Embassy, Gaborone, Botswana

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Press Release

**Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations
to visit Botswana this week**

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce the visit of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations Paula Schriefer. Ms. Schriefer will visit Botswana October 23-25 to explore opportunities to deepen cooperation between the United States and Botswana by discussing issues of mutual interest, such as democracy and global human rights. The United States greatly values Botswana's strong and important voice as a champion of democracy and human rights and welcomes the opportunity to explore issues of mutual concern. While here, Ms. Schriefer will meet with counterparts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, as well as at the Ministry of Defense, Justice, and Security. She will also hold a roundtable discussion with international experts focused on promoting global human rights and democracy.

Ms. Schriefer has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations since May 7, 2012. Prior to assuming this position, Ms Schriefer was Vice President for Global Programs at Freedom House, where she oversaw Freedom House's activities on freedom of expression, internet freedom, religious freedom, and advocacy efforts at the United Nations. From 2006-2011, Ms. Schriefer was Director of Advocacy for Freedom House, coordinating its outreach and communications activities, including foreign policy advocacy, press relations, and coordination with international organizations. From 2001 to 2006 she served as Freedom House's Director of Programs, overseeing nearly two dozen major program initiatives and thirteen overseas offices established to support independent media, open and transparent governance, civil society development, justice sector reform, and the defense of human rights.

In addition to Freedom House, Ms. Schriefer worked at the National Forum Foundation and the National Endowment for Democracy. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. degree in Russian Area Studies from the University of Denver and completed coursework for an M.A. in Russian and Eastern European Studies at George Washington University.

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