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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS FROM ARMENIA EXAMINE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS**

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The Congressional Office for International Leadership (formerly known as the Open World Leadership Center), an agency of the U.S. Congress, will send a delegation of young women from local governments across Armenia to Cambridge, MA from October 13-21, 2023. The group consists of 5 delegates who currently serve on local councils and will be accompanied by a bicultural/lingual facilitator and an interpreter. While in the Cambridge area, the Open World program participants will be hosted by the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA).

Prior to their arrival in Cambridge, the participants will have completed an orientation in Washington, D.C.

In the Cambridge area, delegates will collaborate on best practices for good governance and advancement of women's leadership. Delegates will meet staff of U.S. Representative Katherine Clark (MA-DISTRICT #5), local leaders in Cambridge and other communities, and state legislators. Additional activities include a visit to Tufts University Tisch College of Civic Life, meetings with the MA Caucus of Women Legislators and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and participation in a panel discussion on Advancing Women's Leadership in Local Government in Armenia. The delegation will stay in the homes of local residents who serve as hospitality hosts.

More than 30,000 current and future leaders from partner countries have participated in the Open World program. The Open World program offers one of the most effective U.S. exchange programs to promote mutually beneficial options for depolarized engagement

between future national leaders. It is a unique but no less powerful tool for Congress to engage legislatures in critical regions of the world.

The Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association, Inc. (CYSCA), is a sister city association between Cambridge, Massachusetts and Yerevan, the capital city of the Republic of Armenia. CYSCA is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization, that for over thirty-five years has been actively engaged in a wide variety of citizen exchanges including Open World exchanges, US State Department “Community Connections” programs for professionals, youth exchanges, and many other educational, cultural, humanitarian/philanthropic projects with its sister city based on shared values.

**COIL, a Support Agency of the Congress**

Founded in 1999 by Congress, the Congressional Office for International Leadership maintains a vast network of more than 30,000 alumni in partner countries. Its Open World program supports legislative diplomacy efforts for Members of Congress by conducting exchanges that establish authentic communication and enduring relations that are maintained through its extensive alumni network. Program participants are provided with exposure to the work of Congress, American politics, accountable governance, and volunteerism while being home hosted by American families. To learn more about the Open World program, please visit [www.openworld.gov/](http://www.openworld.gov/)

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