

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, DC, 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

It has come to our attention that the U.S. Department of State is transferring taxpayer dollars to Fundación Sentiido, a Colombian LGBTQ non-profit that advocates for prostitution.¹ We are deeply concerned by your Department's claim that it is funding Sentiido "in support of American values," and are further concerned this will contribute to the spread of sexual exploitation in the region.

As you know, at the beginning of fiscal year 2022, the Department of State awarded Fundación Sentiido a \$16,000 grant to "provide tools, resources, and opportunities to support journalists and activists in Colombia and in Latin America" in order to gain a better understanding of the "use of disinformation and gender restrictive narratives against LGBTIQ and women's rights."² Sentiido, which calls itself "a leading voice on religion and sexual diversity, SOGIE-based bullying, Latin American feminisms, and queer and gender issues,"³ frequently praises sex work and has criticized the Colombian police's attempts to crack down on prostitution.⁴

Colombia has refused to outlaw prostitution, and its population suffers from high rates of sex trafficking and human rights abuses as a result.⁵ In fact, your own Department reported in 2021 that Colombia has failed to "proactively investigate, prosecute, or convict cases of forced labor, and armed groups commonly force young girls and women into sexual webcam modeling, as well as lure them into sex through drugging."⁶ By funding Sentiido, we can only conclude that the Biden Administration condones these activities in Colombia and Latin America.

Therefore, we ask that you respond to the following questions by December 31, 2022:

1. The mission of the Department of State is to represent America's foreign policy abroad, and to advance the interests and security of the American people.⁷ Please elaborate on how funding Sentiido – a non-profit that advocates for prostitution – advances this mission.

¹ <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/foreign/biden-state-department-bankrolls-colombian-lgbt-group-prostitution>

² https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_SCO20022GR0098_1900

³ <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sentiido/>

⁴ <https://sentiido.com/la-persecucion-a-las-trabajadoras-sexuales-en-boyaca/>

⁵ <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/soros-colombian-lgbt-prostitution-biden-administration-grant>

⁶ https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/colombia_trashed/

⁷ <https://www.state.gov/about/>

2. Less than a month after the Department of State awarded Sentiido's grant, Sentiido hosted a webinar on sex worker rights activism and invited three prostitutes as speakers.⁸ Were any U.S. taxpayer dollars provided to Sentiido used to fund this webinar? If not, how will the Biden Administration ensure U.S. taxpayer funds given to Sentiido are not used to further prostitution?
3. Does your Department seek to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are not used to promote prostitution? If so, what policies has your Department implemented to this end?
4. Does the Biden Administration support directing funds, including COVID-19 emergency funds, to prostitutes and pro-prostitution groups, as Sentiido has promoted?⁹

Americans should not have to fear that their hard-earned tax dollars will be funneled to far-left, radical groups like Fundación Sentiido that promote prostitution and further sex trafficking abroad. We must rein in wasteful and harmful government spending, especially to countries who clearly do not share our American values, and we ask the Department of State to do the same.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



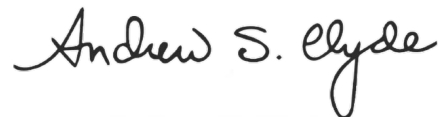
Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress

⁸ <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/foreign/biden-state-department-bankrolls-colombian-lgbt-group-prostitution>

⁹ Ibid.