

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 19, 2019

Her Royal Highness Princess Reema bint Bandar bin Sultan  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to  
the United States of America

Dear Ambassador bint Bandar:

As you begin your tenure in Washington, we write to express our deep concern over Saudi Arabia's treatment of women. As your nation's first female Ambassador to the United States, we urge you to play a leading role in improving the livelihoods of women throughout the Kingdom.

We applaud Saudi Arabia's decision to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women. However, we believe the Saudi government must do more, including enacting legislation that prohibits discrimination against women.

In addition, we urge the Kingdom to take steps toward dismantling the male guardianship system. The United Nations has said the "mahram" system is "the key obstacle to women's participation in the society and economy," and we urge the Saudi government to take concrete legal steps to abolish it.

Finally, we urge the government to end its mistreatment of women's rights activists. The arbitrary detention, sexual abuse, and use of torture by the Saudi government against women is appalling and unacceptable. We urge the Kingdom to immediately release all women's rights advocates in detention, allow for an independent investigation of their treatment, and hold anyone responsible for their mistreatment accountable.

As women in the United States Senate, we believe we must raise the issue of women's rights in Saudi Arabia. In order to improve our relationship, the Kingdom should abolish the male guardianship system and end its crackdown on women's rights activists. As you take up your charge, we look forward to working with you on this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

*Kamala Harris*  
Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator

*Marsha Blackburn*  
Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator

*Amy Klobuchar*  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

*Shelley Moore Capito*  
Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

*Tammy Duckworth*  
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

*Tina Smith*  
Tina Smith  
United States Senator

*Elizabeth Warren*  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

*Jacky Rosen*  
Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator

*Debbie Stabenow*  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

*Kirsten Gillibrand*  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

*Maria Cantwell*  
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

*Catherine Cortez Masto*  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

*Tammy Baldwin*  
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

*Patty Murray*  
Patty Murray  
United States Senator

*Martha McSally*  
Martha McSally  
United States Senator

*Margaret Wood Hassan*  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator