

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**** MEDIA ADVISORY ****

Embassy of Qatar to Host Open Conversation Featuring Leading Autism Awareness Organizations

WASHINGTON — Following a series of [Autism Awareness Month partnership announcements](#) between the Embassy of the State of Qatar and leading grassroots autism organizations all over the country, the Embassy will host a virtual meet & greet featuring several of its partners in the autism advocacy space this Friday.

Speakers from the organizations will discuss key trends in the autism research and advocacy space, share best practices, and discuss how each organization is developing and expanding its programming in partnership with the Embassy.

*** Media will have the opportunity to ask questions of the Embassy and partner organizations at the end of the virtual event. Since time is limited, attendees are encouraged to submit questions beforehand to alex@getproofusa.com.*

WHO:

Fatema Al Baker, Director of Public Diplomacy and Outreach, Embassy of the State of Qatar

Christopher Costa, Executive Director, [International Spy Museum](#) (DC)

Mary Partin, CEO, [The Dan Marino Foundation](#) (FL)

John Moring, Director of Development, [The Westview School](#) (TX)

Mike Maloney, Executive Director, [Organization for Autism Research](#) (VA)

Shelly Berkeley, CEO and Senior Provost, [Touro University](#)

Lisa Kunz, Director, [Sharon Sigismund Pierce and Stephen Pierce Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Touro University](#)

Deby Hergenrader, Co-founder and COO, [Break the Barriers](#) (CA)

Gillian Leek, CEO, [NEXT for Autism](#)

WHEN:

Friday, April 9, 2021

12:30 p.m. EDT

WHERE:

Zoom Meeting

*** Interested media should register in*

advance: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqcuCurjqsGdFegArCFELaERvkwL8Sa1G1>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

About the Embassy of the State of Qatar and Autism

The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Washington, D.C. houses Qatar's diplomatic mission to the United States. The primary purposes of the Embassy of Qatar are to highlight Qatar's policies on regional issues, strengthen Qatar-U.S. bilateral relations, and to assist Qatari citizens who travel or live in the U.S. The current Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United States of America is His Excellency Sheikh Meshal Bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Over the past 20 years, the State of Qatar has taken a leading role in advancing autism research and awareness campaigns in the Middle East and around the world. The drive to change our understanding of autism and of those living with autism has meant Qatar has embarked on a purposeful and meaningful journey—from Qatar's Mission to the United Nations in sponsoring a resolution dedicating a World Autism Awareness Day, to establishing the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs to provide institutional support for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Learn more: <http://qatar-usa.com/autism/>

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