

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM 17 DEC 15 PM 2:58

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, 135 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed. Please do not file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Cindy M. Buhl
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: _____ *or* None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: 12/1/17 Return: 12/4/17
 b. Dates at personal expense (if any): _____ *or* None
4. Departure city: Washington, DC Destination: El Salvador Return city: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
6. Describe meetings and events attended: El Mozote survivors, victims & community leaders;
human rights NGOs, US and Salvadoran officials, Salvadoran religious leaders
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (*signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*):
 - a. a completed Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form;
 - b. the Primary Trip Sponsor Form completed by the trip sponsor prior to the trip, including all attachments and Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
 - c. page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. (*Signify that statement is true by checking box*):
 b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER: Cindy M. Buhl DATE: 12/15/17

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: James P. McGovern DATE: 12/15/17

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: Jim McGovern

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. *A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 10 days of their return.* You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): WOLA (Washington Office on Latin America)

2. Travel Destination(s): El Salvador

3. Date of Departure: 12-1-2017 Date of Return: 12-4-2017

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): James P. McGovern, Cynthia Buhl

(NOTE: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.)

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in response to Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$846.88	\$350.46	\$139.26	
Accompanying Relative				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. (Signify statement is true by checking box):

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Geoff Thale

Name: Geoffrey Thale Title: Vice President for Programs

Organization: WOLA

I am an officer of the above-named organization (signify statement is true by checking box):

Address: 1666 Connecticut Ave NW Washington D.C. 20009

Telephone number: 202-797-2171

Email Address: gthale@wola.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at (202) 225-7103.

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Cynthia ("Cindy") M. Buhl
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Washington Office on Latin America
3. Travel destination(s): San Salvador, El Salvador
4. a. Date of departure Dec. 1, 2017 Date of return: Dec. 4, 2017
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? Yes No
If yes, dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense? Yes No
b. If yes:
(1) Name of accompanying relative: _____
(2) Relationship to traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: Yes No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? Yes No
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:

7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: Yes No
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.
As Legislative Director, I also cover all foreign policy and human rights issues. I have also been engaged on human rights issues in El Salvador for over 30 years.
9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? Yes No

10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**

TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: 12/1/17



Signature of Employing Member

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a Traveler Form at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee Web site (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): _____
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent (signify that the statement is true by checking box):
3. Check only one: I represent that:
 - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip or
 - b. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds or.
 - c. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____
4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members and employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary):
Representative Jim McGovern (See attached) Cynthia M. Buhl (See attached)
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? Yes No
6. Date of departure: December 1, 2017 Date of return: December 4, 2017
7. a. City of departure: Washington D.C.
b. Destination(s): San Salvador, El Salvador
c. City of return: Washington D.C.
8. I represent that (check one of the following):
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: or
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: or
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event and lobbyist/foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. Check one of the following:
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above:
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging:
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night: or
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights:
If "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: _____

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees) (indicate agenda is attached by checking box):

11. Check one:

- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (signify that the statement is true by checking box): *or*
b. N/A – trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
See attached.

13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:

- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (Specify: _____)
b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (Specify: _____)
c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

15. I represent that either (check one of the following):

- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: *or*
b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation:

If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
\$70.00 per day

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
The month of December is the anniversary of the 1981 "El Mozote" massacre in El Salvador.
Families of the victims asked Rep. McGovern and staff to meet with them as they pursue justice in the case.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel name: Hotel Intercontinental Camino Real City: San Salvador Cost per night: \$110

Reason(s) for selecting: Central Location and security.

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____

Reason(s) for selecting: _____

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____

Reason(s) for selecting: _____

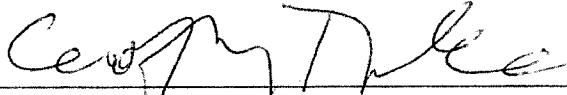
17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. (signify that the statement is true by checking box):
18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	850.00	440.00	210.00
For each accompanying relative			

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee		
For each accompanying relative		

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check one:
 a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below. *or*
 b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.
20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip.
21. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name: Geoffrey Thale

Title: Program Director

Organization: Washington Office on Latin America

Address: 1666 Connecticut Ave nw, Suite 400 Washington D.C. 20009

Telephone number: 202-797-2171

Email address: gthale@wola.org

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1015 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)
 (202) 225-7392 (general fax)

Attachment to House Primary Trip Sponsor Form

4. Cynthia Buhl, Legislative Director for Rep. James McGovern

Cynthia Buhl is legislative director for Rep. McGovern, who has been the leading advocate in the House of Representatives for human rights concerns in El Salvador since he was first elected to Congress in 1996. Because of her role as legislative director, and because of her prior work experience, Ms. Buhl has deep knowledge about El Salvador, and is well placed to advise Rep. McGovern. This trip focuses on the status of investigations into legal responsibility for the 1981 El Mozote massacre in El Salvador. After an amnesty law was overturned last year, the criminal investigation into the case re-opened. In a January 2017 trip to El Salvador, Rep. McGovern, accompanied by Ms. Buhl, was asked by families of the victims of the massacre to meet with them as they commemorated the anniversary of the massacre in December, and to support them in pressing for judicial action. Ms. Buhl's participation will provide her with information and experience that will allow her to advise Representative McGovern, both on the trip and subsequently, on issues related to the massacre and the legal case related to it, to human rights, and to the rule of law in El Salvador.

10. Please see the agenda below.

12. The Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) has followed human rights issues in El Salvador, and U.S. relations with El Salvador since the late 1970s. WOLA has worked closely with interested Members of Congress, and with the State Department and other U.S. agencies on human rights related issues over many years, and continues today to educate and inform U.S. government officials, the media, and the interested public on human rights and rule of law issues, including issues related to transitional justice, and the disappeared.

WOLA will act as the sole sponsor of this trip, covering all related expenses. WOLA, as the sole sponsor, is responsible for facilitating all transportation, meals, lodging and any other necessities.

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana
Chairwoman
Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Ranking Member



ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

November 28, 2017

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Donna Herbert
Director of Administration

Megan Savage
*Chief of Staff and Counsel to
the Chairwoman*

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Counsel to the Ranking Member

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Yvette D. Clarke, New York
Jared Polis, Colorado
Anthony Brown, Maryland
Steve Cohen, Tennessee

Ms. Cynthia M. Buhl
Office of the Honorable James P. McGovern
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

DEC 01 2017

Dear Ms. Buhl:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to El Salvador,¹ scheduled for December 1 to 4, 2017, sponsored by the Washington Office of Latin America.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$390 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$390] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments filed with the Committee, and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ We note that the U.S. Department of State (State Department) has issued a travel warning concerning travel to El Salvador, *available at* <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/el-salvador-travel-warning.html>. You may wish to contact the State Department regarding the safety of your proposed trip.

Ms. Cynthia M. Buhl
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If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Susan W. Brooks
Chairwoman



Theodore E. Deutch
Ranking Member

SWB/TED:re

Agenda
WOLA Delegation to El Salvador: Human Rights and the Status of
The El Mozote Massacre

December 1-4, 2017

Friday, December 1st

- 1:00 pm** Check in, Dulles Airport
- 3:15 pm** Flight 583 departs for San Salvador
- 7:00 pm** Arrive in San Salvador, clear customs
- 8:30 pm** Check in, Hotel Intercontinental, San Salvador
- 9:00pm** Working Dinner, Agenda review

Saturday, December 2nd

- 9:00-10:30am** Meeting with Attorney David Morales, and other members of legal team, at offices of Cristosal
- 11:00- 1:00pm** Meeting with Asociacion Pro-Memoria Historica, organizations of families of wartime victims
- 1:30- 2:30pm** Lunch and discussion with Rector, Jesuit University of Central America
- 2:30-3:30 pm** Meeting with Rev. Tojeira, director of the Human Rights Institute, Jesuit University of Central America
- 4:00 – 5:00pm** Meeting with Noah Bullock, Executive Director of Cristosal)
- 6:00-7:30pm** Working dinner with Rick Jones, Latin America advocacy director, Catholic Relief Services

Sunday, December 3rd

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 7:00 am | Depart for El Mozote in van |
| 9:00 am | Rest stop in San Miguel |
| 11:00 am | Arrive in El Mozote |
| 11:30-12:30 pm | Visit to memorial of El Mozote massacre |
| 12:30-2:00 pm | Lunch and conversations with family members of those killed in the massacre |
| 2:00-3:00pm | Conversation with El Mozote community council about status of case, next steps |
| 3:00 pm | Depart for San Salvador |
| 6:30 pm | Arrive San Salvador |
| 7:00 pm | Final Dinner and debrief |

Monday, December 4

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 5:30 am | Depart hotel |
| 8:00 am | Flight 582 to Washington |
| 1:16 pm | Arrival in Washington Dulles |