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**EDUCATION**  
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### Response to the U.S. State Department's Updated Travel Advisory

In consideration of recent changes in the U.S. State Department's system of communicating travel advisories, we'd like to share our response, specifically as it relates to your support of the Safe Passage/Camino Seguro community and/or your own upcoming plans to visit Guatemala. Most importantly, we want you to know that at this time, our group of 18 international volunteers continue to travel from Antigua to the project in Guatemala City without incident.

Guatemala is currently listed as Level 3: Reconsider Travel. Level 3 means that there are no restrictions for U.S citizens to visit Guatemala. This rating does not mean that Guatemala is more dangerous than it was ranked previously, rather, the new alert system is meant to be easier for the general public to understand.

Level 3 indicates that there are several factors related to crime (gangs, drug trafficking, etc.) that may make the country unsafe for visitors, particularly in certain areas, and therefore mitigation strategies should be developed by visitors.

The Safe Passage/Camino Seguro Team takes the U.S. State Department advisory seriously and makes the safety and security of participants of our program its priority. We actively minimize risks of harm for staff, volunteers, and visitors in a variety of ways. Transport to and from the project is provided in an insured, private vehicle. Each program site employs a security guard to ensure the greatest protection of our property, as well as the safety of the children, staff, and volunteers. We maintain very strong relationships with our affiliates, other organizations, and the local municipality to promote positive engagement and communication. Although ultimately, no one can guarantee any one person's safety, we feel these measures are proactive and address the situation.

It is our hope that you will continue in your support of Safe Passage and join our teams to support the project through work and study opportunities. If you have any further questions, or would like to discuss our safety and security protocols in more depth, please contact Donnica Wingett LICSW, [donnica@safepassage.org](mailto:donnica@safepassage.org), our Volunteer Program and Teams Manager.

