

## Wa'el Alzayat

Wa'el Alzayat is the CEO of Emgage Foundation, a national grassroots organization that advocates for the Muslim-American community. As the leader of Emgage's not-for-profit and political entities, he oversees an ecosystem of initiatives that promotes civic education and political engagement among Muslim-Americans.



Previously, Alzayat served for nearly a decade as a U.S. diplomat, holding senior policy roles at the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, and at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. From 2014 to 2017, he was Senior Policy Advisor to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power, serving as her top advisor on the Middle East. From 2012 to 2014, he served as Syria Outreach Coordinator at the State Department, where he was a senior advisor to U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford. In this capacity, he was the lead U.S. diplomat engaging with the Syrian opposition at the onset of the Syrian civil war and represented the U.S. at the Geneva II peace negotiations. From 2007-2012 he held multiple positions related to Iraq in Washington, DC and Baghdad, including: Special Assistant to U.S. Ambassador to Iraq James Jeffrey; Senior Iraq Desk Officer; and Provincial Affairs Officer covering Al-Anbar province. Prior to government service, he worked in various academic and research capacities.

Alzayat is also a Senior Fellow at the Middle East Institute and Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, teaching courses on security, political, and humanitarian issues in Iraq and Syria. He also serves on the Syria Study Group at the Middle East Institute. He holds a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Middle East History from the University of California at Berkeley.