

Kari Johnstone

Principal Deputy Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

Kari Johnstone began serving in November 2014 as Principal Deputy Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

From September 2013 until April 2014, Dr. Johnstone served as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia and International Religious Freedom in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL). From 2012 to 2014, she served as the Director of the Office for International Religious Freedom, where she was the Deputy Director from 2010 to 2012. In spring 2012, Dr. Johnstone served as Director for Russia and Central Asia at the National Security Staff of the White House. She previously worked as the Acting Office Director and Deputy Director of DRL's Office for the Near East and South and Central Asian Affairs. She served as the Election Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul in 2004 and as the human rights officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent in 2003.

Kari received a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, both in political science. She speaks Ukrainian, Russian, Czech, Slovak, and some Hungarian.