

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable James Risch
Ranking Member, Foreign Relations Committee
U.S. Senate

February 2, 2021

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Chairman Menendez, Minority Leader McConnell, and Ranking Member Risch:

As members of the Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance, a network of more than 50 Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist organizations advocating for the world's most vulnerable people, we write in strong support of the appointment of Ms. Samantha Power as the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

We are facing a time of extraordinary crisis around the world. Countries around the globe face dire human and economic consequences due to the COVID-19 pandemic, further exacerbating existing health, food security, and development issues. The faith community has been playing an active role in providing humanitarian and development assistance to millions impacted by violence, poverty, and hunger. Whether it is refugee assistance, support for human rights, food aid, safe water, or medical assistance, our congregations and faith-based organizations continue to live out their mission in some of the world's most difficult regions.

Through USAID, the United States leads the world in addressing these global concerns as [the largest government](#) provider of foreign assistance. However, the Agency needs strong leadership in order to leverage U.S. resources on global development initiatives and to increase the impact of our work for the world's most vulnerable populations.

Historically, the United States has answered the call when others in the international community have been in need. At this unprecedented time of global need, the United States cannot afford to be without a strong USAID Administrator to lead our efforts and represent our interests internationally. Now is too critical a moment to delay action. We urge you to schedule a confirmation hearing and a vote on the nomination as soon as possible to sustain strong U.S. leadership on humanitarian, health, democracy, and development programs, and the accountability of our foreign assistance resources.

We look forward to working with you on both this nomination and to ensure that international humanitarian and poverty-focused development assistance programs are robustly funded during the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

American Hindu World Service
American Jewish World Service
Bread for the World
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
Christian Connections for International Health

Church World Service
Disabled Children's Fund
Faiths for Safe Water
Food for the Hungry
IMA World Health/ Lutheran World Relief
Sojourners
World Vision