Sample Letter to Congress

**Note: It is important that you not just copy this letter but to write it using your own wording and to pick and choose which talking points that you want to include for each of the two requests.**

Dear Senator/Representative XXXXX

I am a member of the National Council of Catholic Women. I have two requests:

1. Increase funding for international poverty-reducing development and humanitarian programs in FY 2024 (Note to letter-writer: Include one or more of these reasons)
   1. More than 48.9 million people are currently on the brink of starvation while the number of people living in poverty has increased for the first time in 20 years.
   2. Armed conflict, as well as political and economic crises, in places such as Ukraine, Myanmar, Nigeria, and Nicaragua, are also disrupting progress, driving more than 89 million people from their homes, more than ever before.
   3. This assistance, which must maintain provisions protecting life, will reduce hunger and poverty, address the root causes of conflict, and advance peace and security.
   4. Currently international poverty-reducing development aid accounts for only 1/2 of 1 percent of the U.S. budget. It is a small amount but is vital for poor and vulnerable people around the globe.
2. Pass legislation providing our new Afghan neighbors with a pathway to permanent legal status. (Note to letter writer: Include one or more of these reasons.)
   1. During the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, thousands of Afghan nationals, many of whom risked their lives to serve alongside U.S. servicemembers, were relocated to the United States.
   2. Most entered the country with humanitarian parole, which only authorizes them to remain in the United States for up to two years, and expires in August 2023 for the majority of this population.
   3. They need a legal pathway to real and lasting safety. We ask Congress to pass legislation, such as the Afghan Adjustment Act (S. 4787/H.R. 8685), a bipartisan bill introduced during the previous Congress, to allow these resettled Afghans—who would otherwise have faced a dire future under Taliban rule—to apply to become lawful permanent residents.

Thank you for your consideration of these two issues.

Best,

Name and address