



## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

### Violations of the International Right to Freedom of Religion: Christians

#### Panel I



**Sam Brownback** was sworn in as Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom on February 1, 2018. He served as Governor of Kansas from 2011 to 2018. Previously he served as a U.S. Senator (1996-2011) and a U.S. Representative in the House of Representatives (1995-1996) from Kansas. While a member of the Senate, he worked actively on the issue of religious freedom in multiple countries and was a key sponsor of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. He also served as Kansas Secretary of Agriculture (1986-1993) and was a White House Fellow in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (1990-1991). Prior to his public service, Ambassador Brownback was a private attorney in Kansas and taught agricultural law at Kansas State University, co-authoring two books on the subject. He earned a B.S. from Kansas State University and a J.D. from the University of Kansas. He and his wife Mary have five children.

#### Panel II



**Nadine Maenza** is Vice-Chair of the United States Commission of International Religious Freedom. She began her career working as finance director for the late Senator John Heinz and later moved to Senator Rick Santorum's office, where she started as finance director and eventually became the executive director of Senator Santorum's Patriot Voices PAC. She has served as the Chairwoman of Hardwired Global, an organization working to stop religious oppression around the world, and has advised The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The College Board, and The Anne E. Casey Foundation on policy development and strategic

partnerships. In 2018 she was appointed by President Trump to USCIRF and has met with many senior officials around the world. She now joins us in her capacity as Vice-Chair to testify on her extensive knowledge of Christian persecution around the globe.

### **Panel III**



**Dr. David Curry** is President and CEO of Open Doors USA. David Curry advocates on behalf of those who are persecuted for their Christian faith. He provides leadership to Open Doors in its mission to strengthen and equip Christians who live under extreme restrictions, while encouraging these believers to remain strong in their faith. For over 60 years, Open Doors has worked in the world's most oppressive regions, empowering and equipping persecuted Christians in more than 60 countries by providing Bibles, training, and programs to help those who have been marginalized because of their beliefs as well as helping to restore those communities that have been targets of persecution. Prior to coming to Open Doors, Curry served as CEO and president at Christian organizations that serve homeless and neglected children in several countries, including India and Peru. Curry is the author of four books. Curry holds a bachelor's degree from Northwest University in Seattle and an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Faith Evangelical College and Seminary based in Tacoma, Washington.



**Dr. Thomas Farr** is President of the Religious Freedom Institute. A leading authority on international religious freedom, Dr. Farr served for 28 years in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Foreign Service. In 1999 he became the founding director of the State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom (IRF). He subsequently directed the Witherspoon Institute's IRF Task Force, was a member of the Chicago World Affairs Council's Task Force on Religion and Foreign Policy, taught at the National Defense University, and served on the Secretary of State's IRF working group. From 2007 – 2018, Dr. Farr was Associate Professor of the Practice of Religion and International Affairs at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He also directed Georgetown's Religious Freedom Project, the precursor to the Religious Freedom Institute. Dr. Farr is also senior fellow at Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion, and a consultant to the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference.