{Your Name

Street Address

City, State, ZIP}

{Date}

The Honorable {First Name, Last Name}

United States Senate

{Street Address}

Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Nomination of Olga Murray for the Presidential Medal of Freedom**

Dear Senator {First Name Last Name}:

I am writing today to join Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree Isabel Allende in urging you to recommend a remarkable woman, Olga Murray, to President Biden for this special honor.

Olga is the founder of the Nepal Youth Foundation (NYF), an innovative nonprofit that matches funding from loving donors in the United States and other western countries with transformative programs serving children in Nepal—all of them designed, implemented, and run by Nepali experts determined to help new generations build a better future.

Sharing the details of Olga’s extraordinary accomplishments would take many pages, but I can assure you that **she has made “an especially meritorious contribution to… world peace,” cultural progress, human rights, women’s rights, education, pediatric health, infrastructure development, and more**.

*{Share personal stories here if desired. If you prefer to send your letter without adding your own stories of Olga, you may simply delete this paragraph.}*

NYF has directly served an estimated 60,000 children and young adults since it was founded in 1990, and the work Olga has done has built extraordinary healthcare capacity throughout Nepal, improved educational opportunities throughout the country, abolished an entrenched practice of childhood slavery, kept hundreds of families together during times of national upheaval, raised hundreds of children without parents in safe, family-style homes with access to world-class education, empowered thousands of rural mothers to nourish their children with readily-accessible foods, trained hundreds of young adults in construction skills following the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, and much, much more. (If you would like more information about NYF’s programs and the people Olga has served, you may contact the Nepal Youth Foundation’s U.S. Executive Director, Eric Talbert, at 415-331-8585 or [eric@nepalyouthfoundation.org](mailto:eric@nepalyouthfoundation.org).)

Olga will celebrate her 97th birthday in June 2022, and she is at this moment passionately working from her home in Sausalito, CA to launch new NYF programs aimed at empowering communities impacted by the centuries-old caste tradition of “untouchability” in Nepal.

This incredible woman was already in her 60s when she founded NYF. Olga’s life before that point was an inspiration on its own: she immigrated to the United States in 1931, at age 6, with her Jewish Hungarian family and grew up in the Bronx amid the Great Depression and World War II. She then defied convention, pursuing a college education (financed by waitressing by night), and graduated cum laude in political science from Columbia University in 1949.

Soon thereafter, Olga entered law school at George Washington University, a pursuit that, in the early 1950s, was essentially unheard of for women. After being sworn into the California Bar in late 1954, Olga began work as a research attorney for Chief Justice Phil Gibson of the California Supreme Court. She remained at the California Supreme Court until 1992: the entire 37-year duration of her career. In her years as a research attorney, Olga helped write important decisions in the areas of civil rights, women’s rights, and environmental policy—work she takes pride in to this day.

Olga and NYF have earned the trust of the communities they serve in large part because they privilege Nepali voices when designing and enacting solutions to identified problems. Programs and interventions are rooted in the cultures and communities they serve and are highly responsive to the changes (expected and unexpected) caused by NYF’s own presence and by the challenges facing the nation—including civil war, natural disasters, pandemics, and more. (You can find more information on Olga and NYF at [www.NepalYouthFoundation.org](http://www.NepalYouthFoundation.org).)

Olga and her organization are well-known in Nepal, and even a bit beyond. A Nepali newspaper once referred to her as “the Mother Teresa of Nepal,” and in 2001, the Dalai Lama honored her with the Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award. But her story, and the innovative way her organization works, are relatively unknown in the United States.

It is my hope that receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom would shine a valuable national spotlight on Olga’s tremendous achievements—and the important work she and her organization are still doing today. Other organizations working to empower children throughout the world could learn a great deal from all Olga has done.

During this time of uncertainty, disharmony, war, and anxiety, Olga Murray—a 96-year-old who has devoted her life to raising a healthy, educated, empowered generation of children in Nepal—is a wonderful example for all Americans of “especially meritorious contributions.” I hope you—and President Biden—will agree.

Please recommend Olga Murray to President Biden as an excellent candidate for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

{Your name}

{Contact information, if desired}