Samantha Nutt, M.D.

For 15 years, Dr. Samantha Nutt has been at the frontline of many of the world's major crises – from Iraq to Afghanistan, Somalia to the Congo, and Sierra Leone to Darfur. As one of the most original and influential voices in the humanitarian arena, she is a go-to authority for many of North America's leading media outlets.

In 1995, 25-year-old Nutt, a recent medical-school graduate and a field volunteer for UNICEF, touched down in Baidoa, Somalia, "the City of Death." What she saw there – gangs of young men roaming the streets armed with rocket launchers; a woman in a clinic line holding a dead baby; an aid agency working in such an unsafe environment that its workers had to travel with armed escorts high on drugs – would spur her onto a lifetime of passionate advocacy for children and families in war-torn areas around the world. It also provided the basis for her forthcoming book, Damned Nations: Greed, Guns, Armies, and Aid, a brilliant account of her experiences providing hands-on care in some of the world’s most violent flashpoints while building the world class nonprofit War Child North America. Combining original research with her personal story, the book is a deeply thoughtful meditation on war as it is being waged around the world against millions of civilians – primarily women and children – and an exposé of how we facilitate and fuel these seemingly faraway atrocities. Laying out real solutions to these problems, Dr. Nutt shows how to move beyond outdated notions of charity towards a more progressive, inclusive, and respectful worldview.

Dr. Nutt was recently named one of Canada's "25 Transformational Canadians" by The Globe and Mail, and the World Economic Forum recognized her as one of today's "200 Young Global Leaders." In 2010, she was awarded the Order of Ontario. Dr. Nutt is a staff physician at Women’s College Hospital in Toronto and an Assistant Professor of medicine at the University of Toronto.