



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER
Rise Up AND Act for Justice

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March 6, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

God said to Isaiah, "Do not fear." In America, we sing "Be not afraid."

Mr. President, why close our borders to those fleeing real atrocities, fleeing the ravages of war and the search for food, clean water and safety? This is not what America stands for and not who we are called to be. America is not a country that retreats and Americans choose not to live in fear of the 'what if.' This nation has a long history of welcoming and sheltering refugees.

Women religious have consistently been on the forefront accompanying and serving immigrant and refugee communities across this country. Good Shepherd Sisters remain committed to welcoming refugees who come to this country after passing through the U.S. government's already rigorous screening processes. Halting, pausing or undermining the U.S. refugee resettlement program further exposes vulnerable refugees, including women and children fleeing violence, to extreme danger and morally diminishes us all.

In our ever evolving, interconnected world, the exclusion of innocent people has no place. Rather this new consciousness seeks and desires the common good of all beyond borders. Protectionism no longer has a place. Our common humanity calls us to meet the other with respect, guided by internationally agreed upon laws and informed by human rights, the dignity of the person, compassion and mercy.

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd has had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. The Sisters and Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization. Our programs address the social, psychological and economic needs of thousands of persons/families on low-income in 22 states and 1 U.S. Territory. In addition, the Sisters and Mission Partners provide services in 70 other countries.

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Based upon this belief system, we request that you rescind your most recent executive order banning refugees from entering the country for 120 days and immigrants from six predominantly Muslim nations - Iran, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia - for three months.

More than 61 million people have been displaced from their homes, more than at any time since World War II. Some 21 million are refugees, most of whom are children who have been forced from their homes by unthinkable violence. We cannot turn our backs on families who are literally running for their lives.

Mr. President, we need bold, fearless action, not tweaks to ill-advised executive orders. Welcome the refugee and welcome the face of God. Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Circle of Provincials of North America



Sr. Francisca Aguillón, RGS
Central South Province
U.S. Province Leader



Sr. Maureen McGowan, RGS
New York Province
U.S. Province Leader



Sr. Madeleine Munday, RGS
Mid-North America Province
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National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd



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cc: Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Congregational Leadership Team