



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

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**Press Release:** March 6, 2017

### **Mr. President – Be Not Afraid**

Welcome Refugees & Immigrants from All Countries

“God said to Isaiah, ‘Do not fear.’ In America, we sing ‘Be not afraid.’”

These are the opening words in the U.S. Provincials of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd’s letter to President Donald Trump responding to his most recent executive order barring refugees hoping to find safe haven in America.

The provincials united message continues, “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.”

The three provincials representing the Circle of Provincials of North America are Sr. Francisca Aguillón, RGS, of the Central South Province, Sr. Maureen McGowan, RGS, of the New York Province and Sr. Madeleine Munday, RGS, of the Mid-North America Province. Also signing the letter is Larry Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

“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,” they write.

The letter concludes, “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.”

*[The National Advocacy Center](http://www.gsadvocacy.org) offers education through processes and strategies that address social justice issues and advocates for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people. The center reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, working in solidarity with the disenfranchised - particularly families, women, and children.*

*Since the Order of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835, the Order has dedicated itself to serving poor and marginal people. The work of the Sisters in 70 countries in 5 continents, 17 States, and 2 U.S. Territories is based on the belief that everyone, regardless of age, sex, culture or religion, has the right to a basic quality of life; adequate income, shelter, opportunities for education and employment, quality health care, and nutrition. As Catholics, our faith requires that everyone should be treated with the utmost dignity and respect.*

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