



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

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Questions Remain to be Answered by Sen. Sessions Regarding DACA

Nominee for Attorney General Jeff Sessions cracked open the door to immigration reform when he said to the Senate Judiciary Committee members and all of Congress, "Let's fix this system."

"We suggest to Senator Sessions that the best way to begin to fix our immigration system and for the new Administration to work with the new Congress is to leave in place the DACA Executive Order," said Mr. Larry Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

Sen. Sessions testified, "Each one of them produces some sort of humanitarian concern. But it is particularly true for children. So we've been placed in a bad situation. I really would urge us all to work together. I would try to be supportive to end the illegality and put us in a position where we can wrestle with how to handle these difficult, compassionate decisions."

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd have a response. "Sen. Sessions has the momentous opportunity to bring relief, peace and hope to 800,000 children and young adults who were brought to this country when they were young through no fault of their own, for which the United States of America often is the only home they have known. They are this generation's American Dream. All Sen. Sessions has to do is announce his support for allowing these bright, hard-working young people to remain temporarily in the U.S. through the DACA program," said Couch.

"The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd also calls on Sen. Sessions to keep the United States a welcoming home to people of all religions who are fleeing violence in their home countries. We are a welcoming country with a religiously diverse society and our resettlement program should continue to reflect this. To not do so only feeds into ISIS's propaganda and makes us all less safe. Sen. Sessions must announce decisive support for our religious diversity and for refugees fleeing Syria," continued Couch.

Speaking of the plight of refugees, Pope Francis has said, "They are human people, I stress this, who are appealing for solidarity and assistance, who need urgent action but also and above all understanding and kindness. God is good, let us imitate God. Their condition cannot leave us indifferent. Moreover, as Church we should remember that in tending the wounds of refugees, evacuees and the victims of trafficking, we are putting into practice the commandment of love that Jesus bequeathed to us when he identified with the foreigner, with those who are suffering, with all the innocent victims of violence and exploitation."

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), at its core, protects and keeps families together. The highly vetted program is intended for residents who do not pose a safety or security threat. It provides temporary relief from deportation, also called "deferred action," for

undocumented immigrants. Deferred action is not permanent nor does it provide any kind of legal status.

[The National Advocacy Center](#) 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.

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