



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

Press Release: February 16, 2017

Letter to President Trump: Exclusion has No Place
Welcome Refugees & Immigrants from All Countries; Ban the Wall

The U.S. Provincials of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd have a united message for President Donald Trump.

America is a welcoming country and the Provincials respectfully request that President Trump rescind his plans banning immigrants from Muslim countries, banning refugees, stripping sanctuary cities of federal grant funding and directing the construction of a border wall.

"In our ever evolving, interconnected world, the exclusion of 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 Circle of Provincials of North America wrote, along with Larry Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

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.

"This nation has a long history of welcoming immigrants 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 or undermining the U.S. refugee resettlement program further exposes vulnerable refugees, including women and children fleeing violence, to extreme danger and diminishes us all," they wrote.

The U.S. Provincials shared their letter with their counterparts in Mexico and expressed their support for the Mexican people and solidarity with their struggles.

The Good Shepherd Sisters' mission is to serve girls, women and families, especially those experiencing poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.

[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.