



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

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No Excuses. This is not America.

Statement on Charlottesville and White Nationalism

by Lawrence E. Couch

Director, National Advocacy Center

As other people of goodwill, we pray for an America united in love and purpose: united in our aspiration for racial equality, in freedom for all to dream, and an opportunity for all to become who we want to be. But it is not to be – not yet.

Horrified by the violence that occurred in Charlottesville, our prayers go out to the souls of Heather Heyer, Police Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Trooper-Pilot Berke M. Bates, to their families and friends. We pray for all those injured and for all the residents of Charlottesville.

We condemn the actions, beliefs and the goals of racists, white supremacists, neo-Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan and all those who spread hate and intolerance. The views, attitudes and actions of these white nationalists are so alien that it is hard to comprehend. Yet we must. We must dedicate ourselves and take action to wipe out this evil and to unify our nation in love and purpose.

At a time of rising racial tension in our nation, let's recommit ourselves to opposing racism in all its forms and to standing up against white supremacists by speaking out, sharing, acting and praying. Only by so doing can we begin the healing process for ourselves and for our nation.

Saint Mary Euphrasia, the founder of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, stated that each person is worth the whole world. Unfortunately, because of personal and institutional racism, we often fail to recognize the infinite value of each person.

[The National Advocacy Center](http://www.gsadvocacy.org) educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, victims of human trafficking, victims of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in over 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.