



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

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## **Using Tear Gas Goes Down the Wrong Road**

**Statement by Lawrence E. Couch,  
Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd**

The recent event at the border with the use of tear gas against women and children seeking help is a sharp escalation of the immigration crisis. It should be an inspiring story. A caravan of men, women and children fleeing their own homes and countries – fleeing violence and poverty – in anticipation of the promised land where dreams come true, in search of a place where all are invited to climb the ladder of success.

But, instead, it has come to this. President Trump and his Administration are tear gassing women and children. People fleeing hunger and violence should not be met with additional violence. As a nation we must live with a moral code worthy of our heritage.

When we start to tear gas women and children, we know we have gone down the wrong road. It is time to regain our moral footing. We must honor an orderly, humane process for welcoming people who desperately need our help.

These migrants are not threats. They wish to join us. They deserve our welcome and our respect. It is our duty and moral imperative to protect and welcome our brothers and sisters. In our ever evolving, interconnected world, the exclusion of people has no place.

Lastly, I am reminded of the words of the prophet Jeremiah, 'They departed in tears but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble.'

*[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.*

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