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## Trump Administration Puts Hondurans in Danger Ending Temporary Protected Status

The Trump Administration has announced that it is ending the immigration protected status of nearly 50,000 residents from Honduras and forcing their return to that dangerous and unprepared country in 18 months. Temporary Protected Status is granted on rare occasions to people living in the U.S. from countries that have experienced severe natural disasters, war or other extreme conditions.

"This single decision will have devastating multiplying effects on families in both countries, on the economy of both countries and on the soul of our nation," said Lawrence E. Couch, director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

Earlier this year, Couch traveled to Honduras as part of a 50+ member Emergency Interfaith Delegation to accompany Honduran human rights defenders as they mobilized and demonstrated against the fraudulent presidential election last November.

"Since the November election, Honduras has seen widespread civil unrest and protests. Human rights and religious leaders have been threatened and the media harassed. But most in the United States have not noticed," said Couch.

"Now we have 50,000 residents and their families in the United States who are being forced back to this dangerous regime."

"Hondurans living here under this protected status have joined and built up the American economy and are integral to our communities," Couch continued. "They own homes, go to church, support our schools and neighborhoods, and contribute to the U.S. tax base."

"Our government is out of sync with our values. Our neighbors, friends and co-workers are constantly coming under assault from this Administration because they were born in another country. But isn't that why the United States of America was founded? The soul of our nation is being tested," said Couch.

The Trump Administration has recently ended TPS for people from El Salvador, Haiti, Nepal, Nicaragua and Sudan. The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd calls on Congress to quickly find a permanent solution allowing residents under the TPS program to become permanent U.S. residents.

<u>The National Advocacy Center</u> 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.