



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

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Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center Condemns the Mass Shooting at Mosques in New Zealand and Stands with All Faiths Against Hate

“The horrific mass killings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, are shocking. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd and their National Advocacy Center are sickened and deeply saddened. We stand in unity with the worshipers at the Al Noor and Linwood Mosques. We offer our prayers for and hold dear the victims, their families and friends,” said Lawrence E. Couch, director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

“This violence and hatred pierce our collective and individual souls. But we will not succumb to the hatred and division that the killer seeks. We will not be divided.

“We also offer our prayers for the Muslim community in the United States. We pray that their fears and concerns are eased by the outpouring of support by ordinary Americans, people of faith, and by local, state and federal government officials. We pray that our government officials show compassion and true concern for our minority and immigrant communities in the United States,” said Couch.

The National Advocacy Center is the advocacy voice for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The founder of the Order, St. Mary Euphrasia, maintained that, “Each person is worth the whole world.” Based on that belief, the Order wholeheartedly supports Muslims living here in the United States, in New Zealand and across the globe. We should never turn our backs on anyone because of their religious or lack of religious beliefs.

“We stand with all faiths against hate and we are spurred to unity and to understanding. We are reminded of love. All major faith traditions have love at their foundation, and as noted in 1 John, Chapter 4, ‘love casts out fear.’

“We stand with all our Muslim brothers and sisters. We have not and we will not normalize these shootings or this hatred,” said Couch.

[The National Advocacy Center](#) 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, survivors of human trafficking, survivors 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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