2023 YEAR END REPORT

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
We are the federal advocacy and justice education arm of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces, representing the sisters' priorities and those of the U.S. Good Shepherd agencies on Capitol Hill.

NAC reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, working in solidarity with the disenfranchised - particularly families, women and children. Inherent in our values is a focus on the dignity of the human person.
WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

Together with U.S. Good Shepherd Sisters and U.S. Partners in Mission, we hope to prevent more people from falling through the cracks, going hungry, suffering in silence from abuse, being unnoticed or unheard.

Rooted in the sisters’ tenets of zeal, reconciliation, compassion, and a recognition of the individual worth of all persons, the National Advocacy Center is dedicated to building a culture of justice throughout the United States and across the world.

Change cannot happen without the actions of dedicated individuals and organizations who are committed not just to justice in the big picture but to the growth and flourishing of the individual.
Working at the federal level to encourage just policies, to challenge unjust policies, and to develop positive alternatives when needed so as to be in solidarity with those on the margins.
NAC Focus Areas

Human Trafficking, Immigration, Poverty/Economics, Family including Mental Health and Violence, and U.S. Policies that affect the Good Shepherd Mission Worldwide

These issues also address root causes, including Covid-19, Environmental Degradation, and Racism.

Engaged in Coalition Meetings and Actions with:

Coalition on Human Needs (CHN), Domestic Human Needs (DHN), DC Catholic Coalition, Ecumenical Advocacy Days Leadership Team, Faiths United Against Gun Violence, Farm Bill Meetings, Heads of Washington Offices (HOWO), Interfaith Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC), Jubilee USA, Justice for Immigrants (JFI), Value Our Families, Washington Interfaith Staff Committee (WISC)

Established relationship with Child Labor Coalition
Spotlight

Good Shepherd Partner Agencies

Good Shepherd Services New York
Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.) Program

Speaker

Ecumenical Advocacy Days
Swords into Plowshares - Hunger & Nonviolence

NAC Executive Director Fran Eskin-Royer was a key organizer for EAD & gave the formal welcome

NAC shared GSS New York's work against gun violence and is advocating for increased funding for violence interrupters
Selection of Key Issues Raised by NAC

CTC
SNAP
WIC

MENTAL HEALTH
FY2023 Omnibus Package Included:
$1.01 billion Mental Health Block Grant for community mental health services;
$501.6 million for the Suicide Prevention Lifeline; $130 million for children’s mental health services;
$111 million for mental health programs in schools

BUDGET
DEBT CEILING
EQUAL PAY
SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS

SIGNED INTO LAW
Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act reduces overdose deaths, increases treatment access and reduces stigma
Immigration / Asylum

Worked in coalition against anti-immigration legislation and administration policies and regulations

Prevented resumption of the asylum ban and rejected border wall funding

Succeeded in designating and extending temporary protected status

Held back HR 2 (Secure Border Act) from full passage

Called for family reunification and lifting Title 42

Seeking new investment policies for Central America
FRAN ESKIN-ROYER QUOTED IN U.S. SENATOR MICHAEL BENNET’S (D-CO) PRESS RELEASE

“The children. Remember the children. Children should not have to leave home. Children should not have to come to a foreign land. Children should not be forced to work. Children should not be trafficked. Children should not get lost in the system. But they do,” said Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. “The National Advocacy Center works to safeguard children and families and to stop human trafficking. The Sisters and NAC are delighted to support the introduction of the bipartisan Immigration Court Efficiency and Children’s Court Act of 2023 and to call for its passage. This bill would help break the link between human trafficking and forced migration by protecting unaccompanied children who are innocent and too often caught in the riptide of these two difficult issues. We are deeply grateful to Senators Bennet and Murkowski and Representatives Goldman, Salazar, Scholten, and Chavez-DeRemer for putting forward this bill for the children.”
BREAKING THE LINK BETWEEN HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED MIGRATION

PARTNERING WITH THE ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FORCED MIGRATION & THE THREAT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MITIGATING THE RISKS TO POPULATIONS

AEHT and NAC are leading a year-long journey of listening, analysis, and action to address the dangerous nexus between human trafficking and forced migration

LEGISLATIVE PATHWAY

Selected 3 bills that would:
- Address root causes
- Assist unaccompanied children in navigating the immigration system
- Ease process for asylees seeking work
BREAKING THE LINK BETWEEN HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AND FORCED MIGRATION

POLICY EXPERTS MEETING
Co-organized briefing with policy experts to identify three legislative avenues to protect migrants and immigrants from the threat of human trafficking

VIRTUAL BRIEFING
Co-organized educational webinar
Honorary co-chairs: Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)
569 Registrants including 30 Senate and House staffers, 3 federal policy makers, and 44 Good Shepherd Sisters

LEADERSHIP ADVOCACY
Alliance and NAC leadership lobbied Capitol Hill, visiting offices to explain the dangers of human trafficking to the vulnerable populations who are forced to migrate

NAC SPEAKS AT ALLIANCE CONFERENCE
NAC Executive Director Fran Eskin-Royer co-presented at the Alliance’s annual conference speaking on Faithful Advocacy: Building the Beloved Community