



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER

Rise Up AND Act for Justice

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U.S. Must Continue Funding the World Health Organization

President Trump is threatening to withhold U.S. funding to the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) due to his concerns over the WHO's handling of China during the early days of the COVID crisis.

"If ever there was a time in modern history for the world – its governments and its citizens – to come together, this is it. We should be living out the hashtag 'In This Together' not making it more difficult to reach the other side of this COVID crisis," said Lawrence E. Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

The mysteries of the early days of the COVID pandemic undoubtedly will be revealed in the coming months, but the focus of all governments, especially the U.S. government, should be slowing and stopping the virus' spread while supporting the people economically, physically and mentally.

"The World Health Organization has been a leader in highlighting health needs and impending crises around the world and offering its expertise. People who work for the organization are dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and communities in all corners of all continents. They deserve our support and appreciation," said Sr. Francesca Aguillón, RGS, Province Leader for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd Province of Central South.

"Even in this time of social distancing, we are interconnected. We lean on, we depend on, we support, one another. The World Health Organization and its workers epitomize love and concern contributing their vast skills and knowledge for the benefit of us all. We must not short-change them, especially now," said Sr. Maureen McGowan, RGS, Province Leader for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd Province of New York/Toronto.

"WHO always is short of funds with countries failing to pay their fair or full shares. But the thought of this critical organization losing a huge portion of its funding so suddenly and during a world-wide health crisis unseen by generations is frightening and heartbreaking. The world is literally battling plagues and pandemics right now. We need the World Health Organization," said Sr. Madeleine Munday, RGS, Province Leader for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd Province of Mid-North America.

The World Health Organization should not be used as a scapegoat. "The National Advocacy Center and the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd urge President Trump to pause his rhetoric and not withhold U.S. funding to the WHO. We call for focus on the task at hand and a language of love and compassion," said Couch.

“Dear God, what are we doing in this world and why are we here,
if not to contribute to the well-being of our neighbors.”
~ Saint Mary Euphrasia

[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 Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in 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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