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Where are they?

The U.S. may never know how many children were lost in detention

During Holy Week and the terrible world-wide COVID-19 crisis, the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd lifts up a tragedy that must not be overlooked or swept under the rug. On March 18, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), an investigative arm of Congress, [released its report on children separated at the border or in detention facilities](#). There is still no clear accounting of the children and we may never know how many were separated or where they are.

We do know that President Trump's "zero tolerance" policy resulted in the separation of thousands of children from their parents.

Jesus declared "Let the children come to me." He did not cast them aside or remove them from their parents. He did not lose the children.

President Trump's orders on family detentions and then on separations were immoral actions. Furthermore, the United States should not be in the business of taking into custody and detaining immigrant families and asylum seekers.

These children and their families were not threats to the United States. They were seeking safety. But what did we do? We tore children away from their mothers and fathers. And then we lost them.

The GAO has made nine recommendations for Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Department of Health and Human Services. We call on Congress to hold oversight hearings and ensure these recommendations are fully and faithfully implemented.

Borders are man-made; a person's human dignity is God-given. If we respect the human person, then ultimately our country and the whole world will be the better.

[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, 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 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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