



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

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Three Years On: President Trump's Muslim Ban Anathema to the American Spirit

Three years ago this week, President Trump initiated the first of many immigration / refugee bans against Muslims seeking entry into the United States.

"The United States is a powerful country whose laws and wealth would enable most leaders to act boldly and fearlessly by welcoming refugees of all faiths and nationalities. America should not fear the world or other peoples. We should welcome the face of God," said Lawrence E. Couch, director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

Women religious have consistently been on the forefront accompanying and serving immigrant and refugee communities across this country. Good Shepherd Sisters remain committed to welcoming refugees who come to this country after passing through the U.S. government's already rigorous screening processes.

"Why close our borders to those fleeing atrocities and the ravages of war and searching for food, clean water and safety? The United States has an ethical obligation as a world leader to reduce refugee suffering and generously welcome refugees of all nationalities and religions into our country.

"In our ever-evolving, interconnected world, the exclusion of innocent people has no place. President Trump's Muslim ban is anathema to the American spirit. Our common humanity calls us to meet the other with respect, guided by internationally agreed upon laws and informed by human rights, the dignity of the person, compassion and mercy," said Couch.

"Halting, pausing or undermining the U.S. refugee resettlement program further exposes vulnerable refugees, including women and children fleeing violence, to extreme danger and morally diminishes us all," 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 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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