



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

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Prevent the Administration from Delaying or Cutting Refugee Numbers in 2021

"2020 is not the sort of year we expected. With the pandemic health crisis, economic crisis and election campaign, 2020 is set to be remembered as one of fear, isolation, violence and a protectionist 'me first' policy. And people fleeing persecution and violence in their own countries are bearing the gravest of burdens.

But we can emerge from 2020 with resilience and a renewed recognition of our common humanity. We can begin again to welcome refugees to our fortunate land," said Lawrence E. Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd urges Members of Congress to ensure that the administration meaningfully consults with Congress and builds back refugee admissions as the U.S. begins to recover from the pandemic.

Before the end the fiscal year on September 30, the administration is supposed to consult with Congress on the refugee admissions goal for the next fiscal year (FY2021). Unfortunately, it is anticipated that the administration will either delay the setting of the admissions goal and/or make additional cuts to the target number which already is below the current historic low. In the last three years, the administration has cut refugee resettlement by more than 80%, from the historic average goal of 95,000 to just 18,000 - an all-time low.

"The U.S. has always had it within our means to extend the warmth of welcome to many more refugees than we do. And as we move through this Covid crisis, we can begin to carefully and safely resettle more people seeking refuge. People who were refugees have always made their mark on our society and in our communities, never more so than during this pandemic where – as frontline workers – 161,000 serve as healthcare workers and 170,000 work in the food supply chain," said Couch.

"We are called to move from nationalism to a recognition of the humanity of all people regardless of geography or race or culture. COVID-19 has dramatically shown us how interrelated we are. God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Our future depends on it," he said.

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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