



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

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## **Fran Eskin-Royer Selected to become NAC's New Executive Director**

(Silver Spring, MD) -- Fran Eskin-Royer has been selected as the fourth person and first laywoman to lead the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC). She takes the helm from retiring Director Lawrence E. (Larry) Couch who oversaw an expansion of NAC's activities and visibility.

"On behalf of sisters and mission partners in the three provinces of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in the U.S., the province leaders are pleased to have appointed Fran Eskin-Royer as Executive Director of the National Advocacy Center. Fran extends her gifts of warmth and hospitality to each individual she meets, and beyond, to all those in need for whom the National Advocacy Center exists. She is a big picture person who is also very present in the moment with individuals and essential details. Fran has the heart and skills of a shepherd raising up our voices for justice. We are confident and grateful about Fran's leadership of the National Advocacy Center," said Sr. Madeleine Munday, RGS, U.S. Province Leader of Mid-North America who wrote on behalf of herself, Sr. Francisca Aguillón, RGS, U.S. Province Leader of Central South Province, and Sr. Maureen McGowan, RGS, U.S. Province Leader of New York/Toronto Province.

The National Advocacy Center serves the three provinces in the United States: Central South; New York/Toronto; and Mid-North America. NAC was founded 20 years ago in 2001 by Sr. Brigid Lawlor, RGS, who led the organization until the end of 2003 when Sr. Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, RGS, took over. Sr. Crumbley led NAC until 2014 when Larry Couch became the first layperson to lead the organization. In addition, he continued to serve as NAC's lobbyist.

"I look forward to building on the strong foundation that Larry has laid and that grew from Sr. Brigid Lawlor's vision for the program," said Eskin-Royer. "Today, NAC is a small but mighty advocacy office grounded in the charism of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd that seeks to educate and advocate primarily on poverty, immigration, and human trafficking; three issues that impact those on the margins of society – those we serve. At NAC, we see these issues as inseparable from racism, domestic violence and environmental degradation; the interconnections are undeniable. The signs of the time cry out loudly for action around racial justice and climate change, and our charism's call to be reconcilers, both with persons and the earth, gives us a clear entry point for this advocacy.

"With our ties to an international congregation, we also are concerned with how U.S. policy impacts other countries, particularly those where Good Shepherd has sisters and programs. Our advocacy around the terrible situation in Myanmar is a case in point," she said.

Couch, who will consult with NAC until a legislative coordinator/lobbyist is hired, said "I am delighted that Fran has been selected to lead the organization. She not only knows all the issues and many of the principal players, but she is also deeply immersed in the spirit of Saint Mary Euphrasia, the works of the Good Shepherd agencies, and has a deep commitment to being in solidarity with those who live in poverty and on the margin of society."

*[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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