



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

May 19, 2022

Statement on the Buffalo Shootings

Instead of using prayer as a petition, may it be a tool to transform our hearts and minds, and compel us to action.

The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC) mourns with the 10 families whose loved ones were murdered in Buffalo on Saturday in a hateful and sinful attack born of racism, white-supremacy, and anti-blackness. God weeps with them, with us.

While we pray for the deceased, their families, the wounded, the community, and our nation, our faith compels us to do more. Like many of you, we at NAC question why this form of domestic terrorism continues in our nation in 2022.

Our intention is to move us deeper -- as individuals and as community -- so we may hear God's voice in and through our questions.

- When does our belief in a just and merciful God compel us to do more than pray for those who mourn because of racialized domestic terrorism?
- When do we confess the continuing violence of 400 years of racism, white-supremacy, and anti-blackness woven throughout our nation's identity and history?
- When do we acknowledge how this violence wounds and traumatizes us, the Body of Christ, in innumerable ways – from denial to microaggressions to murder?
- When do all of our church leaders speak to how this great evil, our nation's original sin, blasphemes the Gospel?
- When do our elected officials assume their responsibility to protect us from domestic enemies?
- How do we model the compassion of Jesus Christ towards our sisters and brothers who are in bodies that are Black, Brown, Indigenous, or People of Color?
- When do those of us in white bodies, lean into the discomfort to do the hard but required inner work to see clearly the racialized flaws undergirding systems in which we live?
- When do we rise up and act for justice?

As we hold and ponder our questions in prayer, we invite the Holy Spirit to guide our discernment. Instead of using prayer as a petition, may it be a tool to transform our hearts and minds, and compel us to action. It will take generations of committed and faithful anti-racist work to produce the full change desired, but what is ours to do?

Leslye Colvin
Policy Advocate

Fran Eskin-Royer
Executive Director

[The National Advocacy Center](https://www.gsadvocacy.org) 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 National Advocacy Center reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (better known as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd). The sisters and their agencies work in solidarity with the disenfranchised – particularly families, women and children – who often are forgotten, left-behind or dismissed.

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.

-30-