



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

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NAC Welcomes New Hire Leslye Colvin as Policy Advocate

(Silver Spring, MD) -- Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC), welcomes new hire Leslye Colvin to the newly created position of Policy Advocate.

"On behalf of our provincials, the sisters and mission partners in the three provinces of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in the U.S., and the NAC advisory board, I am pleased to welcome Leslye Colvin whose thoughtful advocacy and experiences will expand NAC's understanding and effectiveness as we tackle poverty, immigration, mental health, human trafficking, and other concerns impacting those on the margins of society – those we serve," said Eskin-Royer.

"I am delighted to have found Fran and the National Advocacy Center. The past few years have revealed disparities plaguing our society and our world. These disparities reveal systemic injustices impacting health care, housing, immigration and so many other basic needs," said Leslye Colvin. "As an African-American Catholic and a child of the 1960s, I am very mindful of the urgency of this moment and the promise it holds. This is a time full of potential for NAC and all who advocate for and with women, children, and families – especially those who live on the margins.

"Advocating with and for those who are so often marginalized is the natural next step in my professional journey. I am excited to have relocated to the area and to have joined NAC. This is a moment of *kairos* for us. Let us do the heavy lifting required instead of passing it to our children. May we not squander the opportunities before us to act justly."

Raised in a racially segregated community in southeast Alabama, Leslye's life has been filled with questions of faith and belonging since three generations of her family entered the Catholic Church during her early childhood. In her hometown's only parish, her parents always had their young family sit in a front pew and they assumed leadership roles in the parish. These lived experiences influenced her early perceptions of Catholicism and the Church.

Having worked at the archdiocesan level, she became more aware of the need for Catholics to be formed and then transformed by the Church's social justice documents – what she refers to as the heart of the Gospel of Christ. As an adult she was angered to learn that many African-Americans had very different experiences. Leslye Colvin said, "It is clear that the prevalence of racism is not limited to a region nor is it excluded from my beloved Catholic Church. Our baptismal call demands more of us."

At NAC, Colvin will develop NAC's issues agenda, assess the impact of legislation and policy initiatives on Good Shepherd agencies, and educate the Good Shepherd community on

NAC's issues and mission. She also will lobby Congress and be responsible for coalition building and activities.

The National Advocacy Center serves the three provinces in the United States: Central South; New York/Toronto; and Mid-North America. NAC was founded 21 years ago in 2001 by Sr. Brigid Lawlor, RGS.

[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 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.