



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER

Rise Up AND Act for Justice

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National Healing Must Include Gun Control Our Hearts are Scarred with the Uvalde Massacre

Statement by Fran Eskin-Royer

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(Silver Spring, MD) – Our hearts are scarred again with another massacre of children and teachers this time at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, so reminiscent of Sandy Hook; and just a week after the massacre in Buffalo, New York of everyday women and men doing their grocery shopping or simply doing their job earning a living.

Our first reaction is to cry out and to pray. The National Advocacy Center offers our prayers for the souls of the dead. We offer prayers for solace and peace and recovery for the injured and those who witnessed the shootings. And we offer special prayers for the heartbroken families, friends and communities.

We also pray for an end to the violence and the hatred. But God does not move mountains alone. God works through us. We are God's tools. We are God's clay.

Surely there is a multitude of reasons for each act of violence – racism, mental illness, broken relationships. But one common element more often than not is the use of guns. We do indeed have a gun problem in America. There are too many guns and they are too easy to get.

If we as a nation are ever to heal and if we are ever to reduce or eliminate these massacres, we must enact gun control. We must use the laws already on the books and we must pass additional common-sense legislation such as strengthening background checks and banning assault weapons.

[The National Advocacy Center](https://www.nac4justice.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.

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