

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our priorities are the lives and areas of concern that interface with one another and the legislative realities of the present moment. 2016 was unpredictable and saw much violence and heartache around the world and here in the United States.

In 2017, we will have a new Congress and a new Administration and with new challenges and opportunities. However, before we move forward, let's take a moment to review 2016.

Together we helped prevent further cuts to programs serving people in poverty, worked to end human trafficking, kept up the pressure to welcome refugees, demonstrated for immigrants, shined a light on Islamophobia and racial injustice, and called for peace. With other Catholic organizations, drafted and promoted a Catholic election reflection resource that provided guidelines on the issues.

You made our advocacy possible.

Thank you!

► **Help People Free Themselves from Poverty and Achieve Economic Equality**

NAC worked with other advocates to fight for tax reform, increase the minimum wage, bolster support programs, and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit program to include childless adults. NAC also participated in social media rallies, issued joint statements to Congress, and met with congressional staffers about these economic issues

NAC contributed to the joint efforts of our partners to gain traction for paid family and medical leave at the federal level.

► **Prevent Human Trafficking and End Domestic Violence**

NAC also trained and led a group of high school girls from around the country in lobbying Congress against human trafficking and domestic violence.

Working with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, NAC promoted a postcard campaign to bring greater transparency in the seafood supply chain and to stop human trafficking.

NAC supported the Sisters of the Good Shepherd's United Nations NGO office and other UN offices in their worldwide public relations campaign against human trafficking and in support of gender equality.

NAC collaborated with other Catholic organizations along with Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim organizations to create an *Interfaith Human Trafficking Prevention Toolkit*.

► **Protect the Environment**

NAC became more active on environmental issues this year and worked closer with the Catholic Climate Covenant. With your support, we will continue to shine a light on local environmental problems and seek funding for Flint, Michigan.

With other organizations, we advocated for increased funding of the Green Climate Fund.

► **Racial Injustice & Islamophobia**

This year, we saw increasing animosity and attacks against our Black and Muslim brothers and sisters. While not explicitly part of our goals, we had to act. NAC spoke out and worked with others to oppose

racial injustice and seek criminal justice reform. We called for an end to racial injustice and inequality and we sought to concentrate our environmental efforts in those areas that disproportionately affect minority communities.

NAC stood by the Muslim community and joined other Catholic organizations in calling for an end to Islamophobia and bigotry.

With other religious advocacy organizations, NAC looked at institutional racism within our respective organizations and sought to implement necessary changes.

With the theme of *Lift Every Voice, Racism, Class, and Power*, NAC coordinated the development of 12 workshops for the 2016 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Gathering.

In union with other Christian organizations, NAC developed the theme for the 2017 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Gathering based on the words of Dr. Martin Luther King: *Confronting Chaos, Creating Community*. We have identified 30 potential domestic workshops with sponsoring organizations, focusing on racism, militarism, and consumerism.

► **Reduce Gun Violence**

NAC worked in coalition and joined demonstration to pass universal background checks on every gun purchase and a ban on all high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines. There is no legitimate self-defense or sporting purpose for these military-style, high-capacity weapons and magazines whose only purpose is to kill large numbers of people in a short amount of time.

► **Secure a Safe Haven for Immigrants and Refugees**

NAC traveled to Nogales AZ to participate in a gathering organized by the School of the Americas Watch where we marched and demonstrated in support of immigration reform, an end to family detention, and to provide refuge for those fleeing the violence in their home countries. In addition, we demonstrated in front of a detention center to show our solidarity with those immigrants who have been imprisoned.

With Members of Congress and other faith leaders, Larry Couch spoke at a congressional press conference in the U.S. Capitol opposing a ban on immigration based on religion.

In conjunction with other organizations, NAC successfully opposed legislation that would have stopped the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the United States and opposed anti-sanctuary cities legislation.

With the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, NAC met with legislators and their staff seeking to address the root causes of migration in light of trade policies and international assistance.