



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
**NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER**

*Rise Up AND Act for Justice*

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 14, 2018

## **Reject All New Border Wall Funding & Decrease Funding for ICE**

*December 10 was International Human Rights Day and  
December 18 is International Migration Day –*

*A week honoring and advocating for the rights of migrants and for equal dignity for all*

"This week tells the story of those fleeing violence and injustice and who are being blocked at the border from entering our country. We must change this story for a story of welcome and acceptance," said Lawrence E. Couch, director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

"As a first step, the National Advocacy Center calls on Congress to stop funding deportations, border militarization and detentions. And we strongly oppose funding any allocation for a border wall. Let's remember that the United States is a country of immigrants and persecuted refugees," said Couch.

Congress has until December 21 to pass appropriations legislation for the Department of Homeland Security, along with the Departments of Justice and State in order to avoid a partial government shutdown.

"A partial government shutdown is not in the interest of the American people or those hoping to join us in the United States and share in the American dream. We urge Members of Congress to work across the aisle to pass the outstanding spending bills while rejecting all funding for new border wall construction.

"Congress must take immediate action to cut funding to President Trump's border militarization and immigration enforcement regime. Increases in funding should not even be part of the conversation. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection operate with near impunity carrying out discriminatory detention and deportation programs that separate families in our communities every single day. We ask Congress to take immediate action to cut their funding," said Couch.

*[The National Advocacy Center](http://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, victims of human trafficking, victims of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.*

*The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in over 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-