



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

*Rise Up AND Act for Justice*

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## **Caravan Deserves Welcome Not the Militia**

**Statement by Lawrence E. Couch,  
Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd**

It should be an inspiring story. A caravan of men, women and children fleeing their own homes and countries – fleeing violence and poverty – in anticipation of the promised land where dreams come true, in search of a place where all are invited to climb the ladder of success.

But, instead, it has come to this. President Trump and his Administration are encouraging the people in our country to react with fear rather than with concern and compassion.

Yes, we have a right as a nation to protect our borders and keep out those who would harm us. However, we do not have a right to simply turn our backs on people in desperate need. And we certainly do not have a right to turn away refugees. Indeed, our country would be flouting international law and, I would also say, God's law.

And it gets worse. The President now has mobilized 5,200 members of the military to harden the border in addition to the nearly 2,100 previously deployed National Guard members.

I personally witnessed the courage of the people in Central America when I traveled to Honduras earlier this year to stand in solidarity with the people as they protested an election marked by fraud. The brave men, women and children facing the dangers of this caravan are simply seeking safety and better life.

These migrants are not threats. They wish to join us. They deserve our welcome and our respect. It is our duty and moral imperative to protect and welcome our brothers and sisters. In our ever evolving, interconnected world, the exclusion of people has no place.

Lastly, I am reminded of the words of the prophet Jeremiah, 'They departed in tears but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble.'

*[The National Advocacy Center](http://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, 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.*

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