



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

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## **Disappointment in SCOTUS Decision to Uphold Muslim Ban President Can Still Show that He is Not Afraid**

Regrettably this week, the United States Supreme Court upheld President Donald Trump's ban on Muslims in the case of Trump v. State of Hawaii. While the decision was flawed and dangerous, it turned on presidential powers, NOT on religion or refugees or fear or bigotry.

Therefore, it is within the power of the President to show that he is not afraid. God said to Isaiah, "Do not fear." This God, the God of the Christian faith, is the same God of the Muslim faith. We are brothers and sisters in faith and in humanity. America is not a country that retreats and Americans choose not to live in fear of the 'what if.'

"Mr. President, we need bold, fearless action that welcomes refugees of all faiths and nationalities – that welcomes the face of God. Show the world and America that you are not afraid of Muslims by easing their fears and ending your Administration's anti-Muslim policies," said Lawrence E. Couch, director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

"Why close our borders to those fleeing atrocities and the ravages of war and searching for food, clean water and safety? The United States has an ethical obligation as a world leader to reduce refugee suffering and generously welcome refugees of all nationalities and religions into our country," said Couch.

The National Advocacy Center filed an amicus brief in this case last fall strongly opposing the Executive Order barring refugees and citizens of six predominantly Muslim countries from entry to the United States.

"In our ever-evolving, interconnected world, the exclusion of innocent people has no place. Rather this new consciousness seeks and desires the common good of all beyond borders. Our common humanity calls us to meet the other with respect, guided by internationally agreed upon laws and informed by human rights, the dignity of the person, compassion and mercy," said Couch.

Women religious have consistently been on the forefront accompanying and serving immigrant and refugee communities across this country. Good Shepherd Sisters remain committed to welcoming refugees who come to this country after passing through the U.S. government's already rigorous screening processes. Halting, pausing or undermining the U.S. refugee resettlement program further exposes vulnerable refugees, including women and children fleeing violence, to extreme danger and morally diminishes us all.

*[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, 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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