



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

IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 29, 2018

Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center Condemns the Mass Shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue and Stands with All Faiths Against Hate

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

It is with chilling familiarity that we find ourselves reacting to another mass shooting, another domestic terror attack. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd and their National Advocacy Center are horrified and deeply saddened by the attack against our Jewish brothers and sisters at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Saturday.

We stand in unity with the Tree of Life Congregation, the Jewish community around the country and the broader Jewish Diaspora in this time of grief. We offer our prayers for and hold dear the victims, their families and friends.

Anti-Semitism is a reality that we have not yet escaped. Anti-Semitic and anti-refugee social media posts by the alleged shooter are being widely reported. We must stop the hate and stop the vitriolic sentiment hurled at one another. We have been and need to reaffirm that the United States is a welcoming country with a religiously diverse society. We must love, practice tolerance, and welcome if we are to overcome this evil.

[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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