



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

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No excuses. This is not what America should be.

*Statement on George Floyd
by Lawrence E. Couch*

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If there was any question that our country has not yet reached the summit of what it can and should be, there can be no question now. We still are living with racism, institutional racism and white privilege. Bottom line: We continue to see people of a different color as the other; and that continues to matter and reverberate throughout our society.

The prayers of the National Advocacy Center and the prayers of the sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd around the world are with the family of George Floyd and those who love him. We pray for the soul of Mr. Floyd. We pray for all victims of violence, especially victims of racially-inspired violence.

And let us not forget Ahmaud Arbery, who was murdered while out on a jog.

And as people of goodwill, we pray for an America united in love and purpose: united in our aspiration for racial equality, in freedom for all to dream, and an opportunity for all to become who we want to be. Sadly and tragically, we are not there yet.

Specifically regarding the horrors surrounding the killing of George Floyd, we must have justice. The police officers involved must be arrested and then given their due process; a due process that was not afforded Mr. Floyd. Accountability is demanded of the police department and the city of Minneapolis. And that accountability must radiate out to all corners of the United States. It is long past time that we confront our racism and unjust societal structures and systems. Only by so doing can we begin the healing process for ourselves and for our nation. And only then can our great country reach its full potential.

Saint Mary Euphrasia, the founder of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, stated that each person is worth the whole world. Unfortunately, because of personal and institutional racism, we often fail to recognize the infinite value of each person.

"It is not enough that you love them, they must know that you love them," she said.

But first, we must love them. We must love the other. We must love one another.

[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, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in 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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