



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

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As Lent Leads to Easter – End Exploitation in Fishing Industry to Create New Beginnings

“Fish is not just any food source. It is rich in meaning and religious significance, especially during the Christian liturgical season of Lent,” said Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. “All the more tragic, then, that the fish we often eat is the product of forced slave labor.”

The National Advocacy Center calls on the U.S. House of Representatives to pass H.R. 3075, the Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Act. This bill combats both slavery in the seafood industry and illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing.

“Illegal fishing, organized crime, forced labor are all connected,” said Eskin-Royer.

The International Labour Organization [reported](#): “There are also strong indicators that forced labour in the fisheries sector is frequently linked to other forms of transnational organized fisheries crime. The term “fisheries crime” recently appeared in the context of emerging practical responses against offences committed within the fisheries sector.

“Offences include severe cases of illegal fishing, related offences from document fraud, corruption and tax evasion but also human trafficking in the fisheries sector. Fisheries crime threatens marine ecosystems and has consequences for fish stocks. It has an impact on food security and sustainable fishing by coastal communities around the world. It also deeply affects human lives when it entails forced labour of trafficked fishermen.”

“Illegal fishing is a terrible crime of forced labor taking advantage of migrants and other vulnerable populations. It also threatens ecosystems, economic security, and natural resources. H.R. 3075 would help target fishing violators, combat labor trafficking, and support those fisherman and seafood producers who abide by the law,” said Eskin-Royer. “Let us remember those who labor and those who are exploited this Holy Week and Easter season.”

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

The National Advocacy Center reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (better known as the Sisters of

the Good Shepherd). The sisters and their agencies work in solidarity with the disenfranchised – particularly families, women and children – who often are forgotten, left-behind or dismissed.

The Sisters 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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