

The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Leadership Council Decries Human Rights Violations and Terrorism Perpetrated by the Trump Administration at the U.S. Border

The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Leadership Council joins with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Sr. Teresa Maya, the President of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), and members of many faith traditions in calling for an end to the separation of children from their parents at the border where they are seeking asylum. In May 2018, the U.S. Government began prosecuting migrants who illegally crossed the United States border from Mexico. Their children are then detained separately from their parents.

We agree with Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI, President of the LCWR when she states, “as women of faith, as Catholic sisters, we strongly oppose the Trump administration’s decision to forcibly separate parents from their children in an effort to punish families seeking safety in the United States. Mothers and fathers are taking tremendous risks to bring their children to safety. These are families fleeing violence and death in their home countries. They have every right to ask for protection in the United States and the Trump administration is legally and morally obligated to give them a fair chance to seek asylum. It is impossible to imagine the fear of a child being ripped from the arms of her mother or the pain of a father watching a stranger take his son. It is cruel and inhumane, and it must stop. Our faith demands it and our national values require it. We are better than this.”

The president of the USCCB, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, declared, “our government has the discretion in our laws to ensure that young children are not separated from their parents and exposed to irreparable harm and trauma. Families are the foundational element of our society and they must be able to stay together.” During his remarks June 13, 2018, at the USCCB General Assembly gathering in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, DiNardo added, “Separating babies from their mothers is not the answer and is immoral.”

We call on Congress and the office of the Presidency of the United States of America to stop this deplorable practice immediately.

A Week of Actions —Make your voice heard!

Action Step 1: [***Sign our petition! A first-time initiative***](#) — The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph has started a “*We the People*” Petition on the White House website to immediately end the policy that separates families at the U.S.-Mexico border. Share the link on social media to get signatures. A minimum of 100,000 signatures will result in a White House response.

Other places to sign petitions and/or send letters include:

- **ACLU** — [sign the petition](#)
- **Change.org** — sign [general petition](#) and a [petition to President Trump](#)
- **Credo Action** — [sign the petition](#)

- **National Domestic Workers Alliance** — [sign the petition](#)
 - [Send your message to kids in detention to be read during vigils outside of detention centers on the border.](#)
- [June 30th encourage decision makers to take a position before the July 3 recess.](#)
Mobilize on June 30, 2018 public announcement by Representative Pramila Jayapal at 11 AM EST in Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C.
- **Moveon.org** — [sign the petition](#)

Action Step 2: Contact your elected officials implore them to work toward immediate immigration reform that prevents separation of families at the border. [Senate contact information.](#) [U.S. House of Representatives contact information.](#)

Action Step 3: Write to/contact the [Department of Homeland Security](#)

- **MomsRising.org** Send [form letter](#) to U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Nielsen

Action Step 4: Get educated! Immigration-focused organizations

- <https://cliniclegal.org/>
- <http://caraprobono.org/>
- [Women’s Refugee Commission](#) advocates for the rights and protection of women, children, and youth fleeing violence and persecution.
- [Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project](#)
- [KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE](#) — KIND ensure legal representation of unaccompanied minors
- [United We Dream](#) a youth-led network proposes action steps
- [We Belong Together](#) women in support of common sense immigration policies
- [Texas Civil Rights Project](#) lawyers and advocates on the front lines of the family separation crisis
- [America’s Voice](#) harnesses the power of American voices and American values to enact policy change

Action Step 5: Participate in [planned protests](#) in your region.

Action Step 6: End your issue-related social media posts with #FamiliesBelongTogetherActions

Action Step 7: Donate to organization that protect children separated from their families, including:

- [We Belong Together](#)
- [United We Dream](#)
- [Women’s Refugee Commission](#)
- [ACLU](#)
- [KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE](#)
- [Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project](#)