

# Hispanic Affairs Project



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Open Letter,

The current situation on our southern border in which the Department of Homeland Security is separating children from the parents based on the misguided belief that this will deter others from fleeing to the U.S. border is shameful.

If the Central-American parents are making the decision to risk so much to come to our border from the Northern Triangle, it is out of desperation. The fear of violence from gangs and / or local law enforcement is so intense that they have opted to make this perilous journey. We, as a nation, must look to the causes of their desperation which is happening in our back yard. But in the meantime, the human rights standards of the international community are being ignored by the Trump administration.

The U.N. High Commissioner on Human Rights, Al-Hussein, said the practice of forcing parents to part with their children "government-sanctioned child abuse"[. . .] may cause "irreparable harm," with "lifelong consequences." (CBS News)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) ratified by the General Assembly of the United Nations states: "*all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights*".

Article 9 states: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

Article 13, section #2 states: "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

When a government ignores common international standards of human rights, like the Trump administration has, it starts down the slippery slope of replicating the horrors committed throughout history.

There is no justification for this policy. Using the suffering of children as an impetus to move the do-nothing congress to legislate immigration reform is inhumane. With both chambers in Republican hands and a Republican in the White House, find another means to accomplish just, fair immigration reform that doesn't rely on using the suffering of children to move your colleagues to action.

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*Support Immigration Reform!*