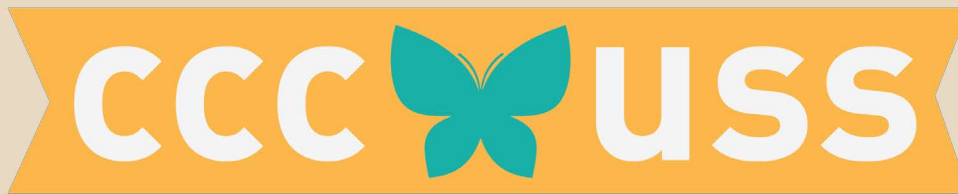


CENTRAL COAST COALITION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUCCESS



FACT SHEET June 21, 2018

#EndFamilyDetention • #ProtectImmigrants • #DecriminalizeImmigration

What is Family Separation & why is Family Separation happening now? #FamilySeparation was introduced by the Trump administration on April 6, 2018, when U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a new “zero tolerance” policy. This “zero tolerance” policy calls for prosecution of all individuals who enter the United States without authorization — including those seeking asylum in the United States. This “zero tolerance” policy calls for the criminal prosecution of all adults for misdemeanor entry violations — even though these were previously handled via civil proceedings. This directly produces #FamilySeparation.

Despite weeks of assertions by the Trump administration, there is no law or court ruling that requires a family to be separated when they are apprehended crossing or attempting to cross a U.S. border without legal authorization. #FamilySeparation was a policy change implemented by the Trump administration.

Since its implementation in April 2018 at least 2,300 minors — including infants — have been separated from their parent or caregiver and held for an average of 51 days before being placed with a sponsor.

What does the June 20, 2018 Executive Order mean for families that are separated? On June 20, 2018, Trump issued an executive order “Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation.” This executive order pauses the Trump administration’s #FamilySeparation policy.

However, thousands of children are already separated from their families. The EO provides no mandate for reunification, no process for interned children to communicate with their parents, or for the parents and children to know each others’ whereabouts. There is likewise no commitment or process in place to guarantee that the separated children will be promptly and safely reunited with their parents.

What does the EO mean for families that are apprehended now? #FamilyDetention

The EO does not change the “zero tolerance” policy introduced by the Trump administration on April 6, 2018. This means that adults crossing the border without authorization will still be detained and criminally prosecuted. What has changed is that adults and children will now be detained together rather than in separate facilities. This is #FamilyDetention.

The EO directs Attorney General Jeff Sessions to seek the ability to detain families indefinitely and instructs the Secretary of Defense to increase the number of detention facilities to prepare for the potentially prolonged detention of immigrant families. Immigrant rights advocates across the nation agree that the Executive Order will make the crisis at the border worse — resulting in the jailing of immigrant families for months or even years.

What is the impact of Family Separation and Family Detention? The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, and the American Psychiatric Association each issued statements opposing the separation of immigrant children from their parents and caregivers due to the well-documented, long-term traumatic health effects of family separation.

However, indefinite #FamilyDetention is not the answer to #FamilySeparation. #FamilyDetention is inhumane. It is inhumane today and it was inhumane when it was the policy of the Obama administration. Indefinite #FamilyDetention continues to violate the 1997 settlement in *Flores vs. Reno*, which mandates that families with children must be placed in the least restrictive setting possible during their immigration proceedings.



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What are alternatives to detention and incarceration? Immigration rights activists, lawyers, researchers and policymakers have long known that #FamilyDetention is not necessary to ensure compliance with participation in immigration and asylum proceedings. Alternatives — including the integration of families with local communities and the provision of legal representation during proceedings — are more humane and are effective. Alternatives to Detention (ATD) programs that include case management are effective 95% of the time. Integration does not inflict severe trauma on children and families and still maintains the integrity of the judicial process.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO END FAMILY DETENTION?

Take action now! Demand that the Trump administration #EndFamilyDetention and #DecriminalizeImmigration.

CALL

Urge your representatives in Congress to end family detention and pass laws protecting asylum seekers, refugees, and individuals entering this country without documentation. Find your representative here: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members>

DONATE



RAICES is a nonprofit agency that promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to immigrant children, families, and refugees in Texas. Donate to their family reunification and bond fund here: <https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/bondfund>

Visit raicetexas.org for further information.

EDUCATE

Help dispel anti-immigrant myths amongst your friends and neighbors by sharing the facts on family separation and immigration. English: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/madeinla/immigration-myths-and-realities>
Español: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/madeinla/immigration-myths-and-realities/2>

RALLY

Join the #FamiliesBelongTogether Rally on Saturday, June 30th from 10AM-1:00PM at the SLO Courthouse, 1050 Monterey Street. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/June30-SLO>

CONNECT

Visit ccc-uss.org to subscribe to our bi-monthly newsletter.

Information for this fact sheet was compiled on June 20-21, 2018 from The Washington Post, NPR.org, the National Immigration Law Center, the National Immigration Forum, United We Dream, the Women's Refugee Commission, and other immigration advocacy organizations.



COALICIÓN PARA EL ÉXITO DE ESTUDIANTES INDOCUMENTADOS DE LA COSTA CENTRAL

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ABOUT THE CENTRAL COAST COALITION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUCCESS (CCC-USS)

CCC-USS is a partnership between educators on the Central Coast who are dedicated to creating and sustaining a system to support undocumented students in our region so that they can achieve their personal and professional goals. Our mission is to create social change to ensure educational equity for all students and build capacity to support undocumented students in our region.