



Appeal - WSCF Denounces the Separation of Children from their Parents at US-Mexico border

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The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) raises its collective voice to denounce and condemn the actions of the United States government in separating thousands of children from their parents at the US-Mexico border.

Due to some of the highest levels of internal violence, a decay of civil society and increasing pressure on communities due to criminal violence related to the drug trade throughout Central America thousands of families are migrating north due to a fear for their life. Many of the individuals fleeing violence are in search of asylum in the United States and an opportunity for peace and security.

Since the Trump Administration announced its zero-tolerance policy at the border Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agents began a policy of separating children from their parents who seek asylum in the United States. The parents are then processed through expedited court proceedings and are being deported. The actions of ICE are a violation of the human right against children who have not only been separated from their parents but have been placed in conditions that are inhumane. Despite the reversal of the policy due to political pressure the Trump Administration continues to demonize immigrants and stoke fear of the other. Moreover, the policy reversal has not provided a clear plan for reuniting families or dealing with issues that have led to the mass migration.

Facts:

- Since 2014, hundreds of thousands of children and families have fled to the United States because of rampant violence and gang activity in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
- During the first 15 months of the Trump Administration released nearly 100,000 who were apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border, a total that includes more than 37,500 unaccompanied minors and more than 61,000 family members.

- In April 2018, Attorney General Jefferson Sessions rolled out the zero-tolerance policy that affects parents, as a rule, are being prosecuted. Any conviction in those proceedings would be grounds for deportation.
- Nearly 2,400 immigrant children have been separated from parents during six weeks in April and May, according to the Department of Homeland Security.
- Despite a reversal of this policy, the Administration has not proposed how they will ensure families are reunited and have begun detaining families together indefinitely contravening previous court orders.

As a community of students and young people active in the United States and around the world, we denounce these xenophobic policies that are not keeping with the Christian Faith. We ask for human treatment for all peoples and believe families should always be kept together in their process to seek safety and asylum in the United States and around the globe.

In solidarity,

Georgine Kengne Djeutane - WSCF Chairperson

Necta Montes - WSCF General Secretary

Yenny Delgado - WSCF Global Director of Advocacy and Solidarity