U.S. Federation
SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

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

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We join with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Sr. Theresa 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.

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The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is a dynamic union of all the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the United States who claim a common origin in the foundation at LePuy, France in 1650. Today there are approximately 4,203 vowed members as well as 3,032 associates and 25 agrégées in the United States. Worldwide there are over 10,749 Sisters of Saint Joseph and 4,399 associates in over 50 countries.

TAKE ACTION

- **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 the 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.**
  - **Encourage decision makers to make a decision before the July 3 recess**. Mobilize on June 30, 2018 with a public announcement by Representative Pramila Jayapal at 11 AM EST in Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C.
  - Moveon.org — **sign the petition**

- 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**

- Write to/contact the **Department of Homeland Security**
  - Go to MomsRising.org to send a **form letter** to U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Nielsen.

TAKE ACTION

- Get educated! Here is a list of 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 proses 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

- Participate in planned **protests in your region**

- End your issue-related social media posts with #FamiliesBelongTogetherActions

- Donate to organizations 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**