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For Immediate Release

STOP NEEDLESSLY TRAUMATIZING CHILDREN!!

Statement of the Industrial Areas Foundation in opposition to the Trump Administrations' policy of "zero tolerance" and family separation

The Trump Administration needs to immediately stop and desist from further separation of immigrant children and their parents, quickly reunite those 2,000 family members, and begin a humane approach to border security and immigration reform. While the president may soon reverse part of this policy, it is important that the victimized children be cared for respectfully and appropriately, including inspection of the detention facilities by local clergy and health providers.

"Forcibly taking children from their mothers and fathers, is nothing short of government-sanctioned child abuse," said Rabbi John Linder, of Valley Interfaith Project-IAF and Senior Rabbi of Temple Solel of Paradise Valley, Arizona. "Where will this stop? Children in cages, tent cities. What's next? Every elected official at the local, state, and national level must tell the administration that this brutality cannot be tolerated. The lack of political will on all sides for balanced, comprehensive immigration reform is responsible for this mess. Children are never to be used as political pawns. The Trump Administration has crossed a moral line."

[The Industrial Areas Foundation](#) (IAF) is the nation's oldest of Institutionally Based Community Organizations, we represent over which comprise 75 organizations throughout the United States representing hundreds of thousands of families. The IAF is committing to meet with our congressional representatives to both end this egregious policy and work on immigration reform.

"The 'zero tolerance' immigration policy promulgated by the Attorney General and the Trump Administration is nothing short of cruel," said Fr. Kevin Collins, OMI, of [Valley Interfaith-IAF](#), and pastor of St. [Eugene de Mazenod Church](#) in **Brownsville, Texas**. "It is un-American to separate children from their parents."

"Its's stunning that we are perpetrating something so horrible for families," said Fr. Mike Walsh of Holy Trinity Parish in **Dallas, TX**, with [Dallas Area Interfaith-IAF](#). "This is the 21st century, and our government is placing children in penned cages. We're a better country than this."

"Virtually every moral voice and authority is denouncing these administrative actions," said Maria Elena Manzo, leader with Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA), in Salinas, California. "This is horrifying. What can be more sacred than the family? It is torture to take children away from their parents."

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IAF Immigration Work in the News

National

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2018/06/19/how-catholics-are-helping-immigrant-children-separated-their-parents>

California

[Area Faith, Business Leaders Gather to Discuss Immigration Reform](#), *The Californian* [pdf]

[Esperanza Care Expands Health Care in Monterey County for Undocumented Immigrants](#), *The Californian* [pdf]

Texas

Dallas

[Church in Texas Issues IDs to Help the Undocumented Navigate Police Encounters](#), *America Magazine* [pdf]

[Immigrants Without State ID Will Be Allowed to Use Other Forms if Stopped by Dallas-area Police](#), *Dallas Morning News* [pdf]

[North Texas Religious Leaders Step Up to Speak Out Against State's SB4 Immigration Law](#), *Dallas Morning News*

[US Citizen Kids Face the Deportation of Their Immigrant Parents](#), *Dallas Morning News* [pdf]

[Church Groups Join Immigrants In a Big Push for Citizenship](#), *Dallas Morning News* [pdf]

El Paso

[Democracy at Work in Candidate Session Hosted by EPISO, Border Interfaith](#), *El Paso Times* [pdf]

Houston

[Immigrants, Members of Clergy Send 20,000 Postcards to Legislators Seeking DACA Solution](#), *Houston Chronicle* [pdf]

[Sheriff del Condado de Harris Dice Que la SB4 Traera Mas Complicaciones Que Soluciones a Su Departamento](#), *Univision 34*

Rio Grande Valley

[Pressure Grows on Cuellar to Support Discharge Petition](#), *Rio Grande Guardian*



[Valley Interfaith Pushes Lawmakers to Support DACA](#), *Valley Morning Star*

San Antonio

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2018/06/19/archbishop-gustavo-garcia-siller-san-antonio-speaks-out-against-zero>

Arizona

Oklahoma- [Hundreds Attend Tulsa Event Urging Lawmakers to Save DREAMers](#), *FOX 23 News*

Nebraska

[Brian Maas, Maryanne Stevens and Timothy F. McNeil: Don't End Protected Status](#), *The World Herald* [[pdf](#)]

[Grace: In Omaha Nearly 20 Years, El Salvador Native With Protected Status Faces Uncertain Future](#), *The World Herald* [[pdf](#)]