



Statement of Sisters of St. Agnes on Separation of Immigrant Children from Parents

In observance of World Refugee Day on Wednesday, June 20, the leadership of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes issues the following statement in response to the practice by immigration officials of separating immigrant children from their parents at the border of the United States and Mexico.

The Sisters of St. Agnes urge an immediate end to the morally reprehensible practice of immigration authorities separating children from their mothers and fathers at the US-Mexico border.

We learn of heartbreaking stories of children being taken into government custody, separated from parents who are sometimes sent to far-flung detention centers with no way of communicating with their children for days or weeks. Parents and children suffer agonizing uncertainty about whether they will be reunited. This speaks of a nation that has lost its moral compass.

We call on President Trump to stop his Administration's "zero-tolerance" policy of filing criminal charges against immigrants, including families seeking asylum from gang violence, rape, or political persecution. In solidarity with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops we urge Congress to enact long-overdue immigration reform that enjoys broad public support and reflects American values, such as protecting young Dreamers and keeping families united.

Additionally, we support protecting foreign aid, which is vital to supporting refugees around the world, as well as efforts to address the root causes of migration and displacement.

Sister Jean Steffes CSA, General Superior
Sister Rhea Emmer CSA, General Councilor
Sister Susan Seeby CSA, General Councilor
Sister Cyndi Nienhaus CSA, General Councilor