

Resolution Condemning the Trump Administration's Zero Tolerance Policy

Whereas, the zero tolerance immigration policy of President Donald Trump, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, White House Policy Advisor Stephen Miller, and Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen separated children from parents upon their legal or unlawful entry (which is a misdemeanor under federal law) into our nation, across the southern border;

Whereas, an increase in the unlawful entry is the direct result of the Trump administration slowing the number of people it is willing to process at legal entry points, thus creating a crisis for those seeking asylum and needing immediate help;

Whereas, people not using legal checkpoints are, nonetheless, seeking out border officers so they may be processed as asylum seekers, but are being forced into admitting guilt to the misdemeanor, and, in so doing, undermining their ability to seek asylum under the law;

Whereas, we believe the Trump administration's policy is meant to inflame passions, further dividing the country over the treatment of immigrants;

Whereas, the administration chose to initiate an inhumane policy that would cause extreme pain, suffering and hardship on every family impacted by it, with incalculable negative effects upon the parents and their children, including toddlers and babies;

Whereas, Donald Trump lied and blamed Democrats for passing legislation that required the separation of families, and for being unwilling to negotiate with Trump to fix the problem;

Whereas, there was no law compelling the Trump administration to separate families and the negotiations were not to fix this problem, but to provide funding for his border wall, as well as other measures designed to drastically limit legal immigration;

Whereas, the executive order did not end the Trump administration's zero tolerance policy, and it will expand detention camps to incorporate families;

Whereas, the executive order included no plan to reunite over 2,300 children with their parents, and even if reunited, would be incarcerated together for the foreseeable future in I.C.E. detention centers;

Whereas, this policy will continue to criminalize human beings seeking asylum, which violates the United Nations 1951 and 1967 Protocols and Congress's integration of these protocols into the immigration law of the Refugee Act of 1980;

Whereas, most media and elected officials were prevented at first from entering or, in some cases, even externally viewing the internment camps of men, women, boys, girls, toddlers, and babies to be able to assess their status and/or depict how they are being treated and how they feel about that treatment;

Whereas, most of the detention centers are run by private for-profit companies that are receiving millions from the federal government, and therefore have incentive to increase rates of incarceration and not release detainees;

Whereas, the majority of Americans overwhelmingly expressed outrage and demanded an end to this shameful policy;

Whereas, many governors, including Governor Northam of Virginia, have responded to this policy by withdrawing their National Guard troops from participation in any further border enforcement support;

Whereas, Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine joined many other U.S. Senators and introduced a bill to end Trump's policy; Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring joined with other attorneys general from around the nation in taking legal action against the Trump administration to end its despicable policy; Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg, who has issued a statement condemning this policy, confirmed that the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center has not and is not currently housing children who have been separated from their families at the border, and urged the center not to accept any separated children into the facility or renew its contract with the federal government in August when it expires - advice the board agreed with and voted to uphold;

Whereas, Donald Trump and the administration failed to meet court mandated deadlines to reunite children separated from their families;

Be it resolved, the Alexandria Democratic Committee condemns, as a violation of human rights, the taking of children as hostages to advance the Trump administration's political and policy goals – ironically it withdrew from the U.N. Human Rights Commission on World Refugee Day on June 20th;

Be it resolved, the Alexandria Democratic Committee demands that families and children be released from the government compounds and be given proper care, treatment and appropriate living conditions, including schooling for the children in need of it;

Be it resolved, the Alexandria Democratic Committee condemns this action this cruel and inhumane policy of White House Policy Advisor Stephen Miller, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, and, most importantly, President Donald J. Trump, who we urge citizens to hold accountable in the midterms and in 2020;

Be it resolved, that the Alexandria Democratic Committee will continue to hold this administration accountable until all the children are reunited with their parents and this policy is reversed; children should not be used to make political points, and immigrants should not be scapegoated for seeking asylum in the United States, a nation of immigrants; we welcome immigrants into our community, and we are a better city, state, and nation for the contributions of immigrants.

Background and Related Links

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/6/19/17474720/trump-immigration-border-stephen-miller>
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.cnn.com/cnn/2018/06/20/politics/national-guard-border-troops/index.html>
<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2018/06/how-you-can-fight-family-separation-at-the-border.html>
https://www.washingtonpost.com/powerpost/as-republicans-flee-trump-border-policy-democrats-see-a-november-benefit/2018/06/18/b6885b8e-731f-11e8-805c-4b67019fcfe4_story.html
<https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/editorials/article213484199.html>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/20/us/politics/family-separation-executive-order.html>
<https://www.npr.org/2018/06/19/621435225/u-s-announces-its-withdrawal-from-u-n-s-human-rights-council>