

## YWCA TALKING POINTS: FAMILIES BELONG TOGETHER

YWCA has stood with women, children, and families for 160 years. We know that families are at the core of our nation's well-being, and that the trauma of separation from caregivers has lifelong negative impacts on children.

- In just six weeks, over 2,000 children have been taken from their parents at the border and placed in prison-like facilities.
- Family separation is not just happening at the border. Right now, children across the country are losing their parents, from toddlers at the border to DACA recipients to American-born children of immigrants.
- Ripping kids away from their parents has long-term and devastating impacts on the lives of children. Parental loss and separation is reflected in the Adverse Childhood Experiences Survey as a traumatic event.
- YWCAs across the country have always opened their doors and provided resources to women, children, and families in need. We are continuing that legacy today, and many YWCAs are continuing to offer support to immigrant families being impacted and traumatized by this Administration's cruel anti-immigrant policies.

**Immigrant justice is racial justice.** This country has a deep-rooted history of criminalizing people of color. The current Administration's immigration enforcement efforts continue this history of punishing and criminalizing immigrant parents of color.

- Families fleeing violence, survivors of domestic violence, and people seeking asylum in the United States are being punished.
- This zero-tolerance policy is new. The Administration is choosing to enact this policy that demands the prosecution of 100% of all cases, including immigrant parents. It is children who are paying the price for this policy and being traumatized.
- The alternative to family separation cannot be family detention. Detaining entire families together indefinitely is not a solution; it is a jail sentence that exchanges one form of trauma for another.
- The immigration policies of this Administration have increased the policing and surveillance of immigrant families, on the borders and across the United States — in schools, courthouses, workplaces, and more.
- This Administration should not be using children as pawns to pass anti-immigrant policies and punish parents; it is inhumane and cruel.

As one of the largest networks of domestic violence service providers in the U.S., we know that these acts, coupled with the decision to deny survivors of violence asylum, will have devastating effects on immigrant survivors of gender-based violence.

- This Administration has chosen to block thousands of people from refuge and condemn thousands of domestic violence survivors to deportation and dangerous situations where they could very well lose their lives.
- This Administration's actions undermine decades of progress toward humane policies that recognize the unique vulnerabilities of women and children who have experienced the trauma of violence and need secure immigration status to access safety.
- YWCA is seeing the impact of these immoral immigration practices every day as immigrant women and the families we serve are refraining from participating in programs due to the fear of being detained or deported.
  - Describe what your YWCA is seeing in your community.

**YWCA demands this Administration acts to end family separation, family detention, and the overall criminalization of immigrant families of color.** We demand:

- The immediate reunification of families;
- The end of family separation and family detention;
- An investment in a comprehensive treatment plan to address the lifelong negative impacts of the trauma and harm caused to children and families;
- A clean Dream Act;
- The elimination of all policies and practices that criminalize immigrant families, people of color, and other marginalized communities.