



**CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER
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PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CARECEN SF Stands with the Parents and Children Surviving Family Separation, Calls for an End to “Zero Tolerance” and Encourages Respect for the Sacredness of Family

San Francisco, CA - June 11, 2018 – CARECEN SF stands in solidarity with the parents and children surviving the torture of family separation through the “zero tolerance” policy put in place by the Trump Administration, which criminalizes families seeking safety in the U.S. CARECEN SF calls for an end to such racist, hateful policies and encourages respect for the sacredness of families and those seeking asylum.

In the span of just two weeks during the month of May, more than 650 migrant children were cruelly separated from their parents under “zero tolerance.” News reports also reveal that some kids are being abused and assaulted at the hands of government officials. Recent news also unfortunately conflated the issue of forced family separation at the border with a story about unaccompanied children released from the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) as “lost” or “missing” when in fact they are not “lost” or “missing.” This misinformation has shifted the focus from the real needs of the children such as ensuring the ORR system be provided the resources it needs to carry out appropriate care and follow-up with children in its custody, as well as taken focus away from the fact that parents and children are being punitively ripped apart at the border while trying to seek the safety of asylum.

These types of constant news attacks on the human dignity of immigrants can feel disempowering and leave us feeling hopeless and depleted. CARECEN SF wants to encourage our community not to fall into this rut but rather participate in a positive vision of the world. It is important for us to see the recent attacks as part of a larger scheme of xenophobia and dehumanization, we can choose to rise above the tendency to focus on each attack as separate and distinct and see them for what they are: tactics intended to misdirect us and make us weary.

Instead of existing in reaction mode and condemning each attack as it comes, **we choose to stay focused on a positive, aspirational vision comprised of values such as respecting the sacredness of the family and finding a pathway to permanency for all 11 million undocumented immigrants, including asylum seekers. We are 11 million strong and counting!**

If you would like to get involved, contact your legislative representatives and share that you support the following:

- H.R. 2572 - Protect Family Values at the Border Act
- H.R. 5950/S.2937 – the HELP Separated Children Act
- H.R. 2043/S. 2468 - Fair Day in Court for Kids Act of 2018
- Appropriations legislation and report language that would prevent blanket and inhumane family separation practices, and track when, where, and how often family separation occurs.

CARECEN SF empowers and responds to the needs, rights and aspirations of Latino, immigrant, and under-resourced families in the San Francisco Bay Area – building leadership to pursue self-determination and justice. Learn more at carecensf.org.

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