



## PRESS STATEMENT

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### **THE CARAVAN FOR THE CHILDREN TRAVELS TO CENTRAL AMERICA TO CONVENE A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FAMILY REUNIFICATION TASK FORCE & CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS CONCERNED WITH IMMIGRANT RIGHTS**

**San Salvador, El Salvador, September 20, 2023** – President Biden established the President's Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families ("Task Force") in 2021, which includes the heads of the Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Justice, and the State Department. The Task Force is charged with leading the reunification effort of more than 5,500 migrant children separated from their families at the U.S./Mexico border by the Trump Administration's "Zero Tolerance" policy in 2018.

All of [#CaravanForTheChildren](#) campaign activities seek to keep public attention on the reunification effort, so the U.S. government is accountable for Uncaging, Reunifying and Healing the children separated from their parents. Members of the #CaravanForTheChildren organizing committee traveled to Central America in response to a formal U.S. government delegation to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras on the matter.

With CARECEN SF's support, [#CaravanForTheChildren](#) invited civil society allied organizations concerned with immigrant and human rights to a meeting with the Task Force Director and U.S. delegation members, the International Organization on Migration (IOM), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) regional representatives – all involved in leading, and/or implementing the reunification effort in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

The goal of [#CaravanForTheChildren](#) is to give civil society organizations in Central America a chance to hear about the reunification effort directly from the Task Force, and socialize with allies in the region the existing options available to parents deported back to their countries without their children, including the **Together.gov** or **Juntos.gov** web portal where separated parents can register to begin the reunification process. Once a confirmed match has been made, then IOM supports parents in completing all the necessary paper work, so they can reunify with their children in the U.S. under a parole program that provides entry documents into the United States, with the opportunity for work authorization for



three years. The U.S. government is also paying for travel expenses for parents, and other immediate family

members in country of origin, such as other children, as well as extended family who depend on these adults economically, and/or for health or other unique circumstances.

Another goal of **#CaravanForTheChildren** is to connect with, and learn from allied organizations and community members about country conditions that lead to forced migration from the region, and barriers to reunification from a Central American perspective and context, and opportunities/strategies to successfully share information about available options for separated families to reunify.

In early October, **#CaravanForTheChildren** will be organizing a community report back in San Francisco, where delegation members will share what was learned, challenges and/or barriers, opportunities as well as successes related to the reunification of children with their families.

Members of the **#CaravanForTheChildren** organizing committee include CARECEN SF, Galería de la Raza, Chicana Latina Foundation and Instituto Familiar de la Raza.

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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. Rooted in its cultural strengths and inspired by the Central American justice struggles, CARECEN SF envisions our diverse immigrant community as thriving; where families prosper, build effective community institutions, and participate confidently in civic life. Learn more about our history and work at [www.carecensf.org](http://www.carecensf.org).