



The American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare joins our many colleagues in the professional and assistance communities, those in governmental positions, civil rights advocates and thousands across the nation in decrying the insensitive and inhumane policies of the United States Government that prosecute parents and separate children from their families. We applaud the cessation of family separation at US borders.

We must now rectify the injustice already done.

It is unthinkable that as US citizens we have moved to this position and unimaginable we are enforcing these policies. It is cruel, harmful and contrary to our personal, family and democratic values on so many levels:

- It uses children as political pawns, harming both children and their parents;
- Children have already become lost in the system;¹
- It evokes “internment” experiences that have caused irreparable harm to American families that persists to this day;
- It rejects the ideology we fought to protect in WWII;
- It contradicts the values and ideals embodied in the Statue of Liberty;

¹ The Trump administration last month [testified](https://www.tla.com/2018/05/15/dhs-secretary-defends-separating-migrant-families-at-border-during-senate-hearing/) it lost track of 20% — or nearly 1,500 children — of the undocumented minors that had been in its custody over a three-month period at the end of 2017. [tla.com/2018/05/15/dhs-secretary-defends-separating-migrant-families-at-border-during-senate-hearing/](https://www.tla.com/2018/05/15/dhs-secretary-defends-separating-migrant-families-at-border-during-senate-hearing/)

- It does NOT represent what our Secretary of Homeland Security has avowed in stating that “We are a country of compassion. We are a country of heart.”²

Our country is more principled than this short-sighted policy that achieves misery for immigrant families and their children, who are the future of our nation. We must act on our democratic ideals that embody true compassion and heart.

² <https://www.npr.org/2018/06/18/620972542/we-do-not-have-a-policy-of-separating-families-dhs-secretary-nielsen-says>