



Latin American Association

LAA: US GOVERNMENT MUST STOP SEPARATING IMMIGRANT CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS

The Latin American Association expresses its deepest concerns regarding the “zero-tolerance” policy against unauthorized immigration instituted by the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. This unprecedented move has resulted in the separation of children from their parents at the border. Such practices are inconsistent with who we are as a nation and go against our most cherished values.

While the DHS has separated children from their parents in the past, no administration before this one has adopted this as standard practice. Recent heart-breaking news headlines have shown how this new policy has caused children, some very small, to be torn away from their parents and placed into juvenile holding facilities. It is estimated that 66 children are separated from their parents each day as a result of the “zero-tolerance” policy.

Asylum-seeking families have already suffered through traumatic experiences in their home countries as well as on their journeys to the United States. Separating families only brings them even more trauma. Many of these families are seeking to escape dangerous and impoverished conditions in Central America, and their futures are uncertain. We, the LAA, insist that immigrants be given their right to seek asylum, as recognized by national and international law, and that the DHS immediately discontinue this practice. We also call on Congress to pass legislation that upholds immigrant children’s rights as dependent human beings.

Small children have no control over their lives. They are more vulnerable than anyone. [Please call your representative in Congress today and tell them to end this practice of separating families \(FWD.us\).](https://www.fwd.us)