



Statement on the Separation of Children from Their Families at the U.S. Border

July 1st, 2018

At the Southern border of the United States children continue to be separated from their families by federal government officials. This deplorable policy has continued for far too long and echoes shameful parts of history. The Trump Administration has stated that it is now placing children in [“foster care or whatever”](#) instead of detention facilities—Youth in Care Canada joins, the [Foster Care Alumni of America](#), [Fostering America](#) and other child and youth serving organizations in firmly opposing this action and the ongoing state sanctioned child abuse.

Trauma Has Lasting Impacts

Childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences have [lasting impacts](#) on the physical and mental well-being of children and adults throughout their lives. The separation of children from their families is causing [irreparable harm](#) to thousands of children, subjecting them to extreme distress, fear, and a deterioration of cognitive, physical, and emotional functioning both during and long after detention.

Foster Care Is Not the Solution

The child welfare system is a failure and not a source of pride. Children in state care face numerous barriers and [negative outcomes](#) compared to their peers including adverse educational and employment outcomes, increased rates of mental health conditions, and are overrepresented among homeless and incarcerated populations. The solution is to end the government’s unacceptable practices of separating children from their families and detaining children and their families indefinitely.

Canada Is Not Inculpable

YICC would like to emphasize that the magnitude of events in the US should serve as a warning to change Canada’s own mistreatment of migrant children. [Between the years of 2010 and 2014, Canada has detained approximately 242 children per year](#), placing them in facilities resembling [medium security detention facilities](#) and in the child welfare system—often [neglecting to grant youth citizenship](#) and leaving them with precarious immigration status and at [risk of deportation](#). Similarly, Canada continues its legacy of colonialism against Indigenous children through apprehending and placing them in state care. Despite Canada’s recognition that state-sanctioned apprehension of children during residential schools was an egregious human rights violation, there are more Indigenous children in the child welfare system currently than at the height of these schools.

We are seeing negative history repeat itself and we must stop it.



Youth in Care Canada calls on both the Canadian and US governments to stop the senseless separation of children from their families, reunite detained families, and end the human rights violations on migrant children.

Let's Take Action:

Please support the many organizations that are working to reunite families:

<https://www.familiesbelongtogether.org/>

<https://action.aclu.org/petition/separating-families>

<https://you.leadnow.ca/petitions/tell-trudeau-welcome-those-fleeing-violence-and-deportation-under-trump>

<https://endmigrantdetention.wordpress.com/>

About Youth in Care Canada:

Youth in Care Canada is a national, charitable organization driven by youth in and from Canada's child welfare systems. YICC exists to voice the opinions and concerns of youth in and from care and provides resources and support to help them achieve their goals.