

Action Steps Updated in Ithaca, NY 6/22/18

A Resource from Tompkins County Showing Up for Racial Justice. Thank you to the many people who have contributed, put out these public calls for action and those on the frontlines of this work.

A. Phone Calls and Emails:

1. Call members of Congress every day and let them know Trump's executive order does not include an immediate and comprehensive plan to reunite the thousands of children already separated with their guardians. Congress must act immediately to reunite families and to revise the current barbaric immigration laws and policies that keep whole families seeking asylum in internment camps indefinitely. Begin by rejecting Paul Ryan's Anti-immigration Bill. These are crimes against humanity and we the people will not allow it to continue. It must stop. Families must be reunited. Humane treatment must be implemented.

[Script and routing from the ACLU for calling Senators: Call Your Representative: Stop Speaker Ryan's Anti-immigrant Bill](#)

NY State:

Sen. Gillibrand 315-448-0470 / 202-224-4451

Sen. Schumer 607-772-6792 / 202-224-6542

NY District 23:

Rep. Reed 607-222-2027 / 202-225-3161 / (607) 654-7566

[Check Out this Helpful Guide to Calling Senators from Refinery29](#)

2. The names of two contractors running child detention camps are MVM Inc. and General Dynamics. Their Emails and a Template are below:

Here are the emails for General Dynamics' PR team:

Iryan@generaldynamics.com

Carol.Smith@gd-ms.com

DDuBard@nassco.com

david.hench@gdbiw.com

Mark.Meudt@gdit.com

porterr@gdls.com

rafael.moreno@gdels.com

heidi.fedak@gulfstream.com

heinz.aebi@jetaviation.ch

laurie.vanbrocklin@gd-ots.com

dbarrett@gdeb.com

Here's an email template:

Hello,

It has come to my attention that your business is holding immigrant children in jails. They are children and asylum seekers. They should not be separated from their parents and they shouldn't be in concentration camps.

This is indefensible. Please ask your leadership to back out of this contract.

Thank you,
[Your name]

3. Post on the Facebook Page and make phone calls to Southwest Key, [the “non-profit” highlighted in Time as making 458 million dollars fom detaining children.](#) Let them know what you think of their participation in this cruelty.

- a. Call (512) 462-2181
- b. [Facebook Page Here](#)
- c. Twitter: @SouthwestKey
- d. Company Overview in Their Words:

Southwest Key Programs is a minority-led, national nonprofit headquartered in Austin, Texas. It was founded in 1987 by current CEO/el Presidente Dr. Juan Sánchez to provide services that positively impact the lives of youth and families. Today, Southwest Key's creative and diverse staff of over 5000 employees operate youth justice alternative programs, safe shelters for immigrant children, and wraparound programming for their partner school East Austin College Prep. Southwest Key's mission is to open doors to opportunity so that individuals can achieve their dreams.

4. [Sign this Petition from the National Domestic Workers Alliance](#)

B. Sign Up to Take Action/Volunteer:

1. **Fill out this action form from [Mijente](#), “a platform for Latinx changemakers to campaign and win.”**

Mijente is Issuing the Call for Immediate Direct Action to:

- Shut Down Jeff Sessions
- Abolish ICE
- Resist a Fascist Future

[Sign up here and Mijente will follow up!](#)

2. Sign Up to Volunteer with Lawyers for Good Government: “We stand with immigrants & their families”

- a. Sign up to be an **in-person or remote** volunteer
 - i. [Click Here](#) or follow the link:
 - ii. <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/we-stand-with-immigrants-their-families-sign-up-to-volunteer>

3. Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso, Texas

- “Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center has always relied on talented volunteers to maximize its efficiency. In fact, hundreds of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds have come through Las Americas in various capacity and we are grateful for their help.”
- [Click here if you're interested in volunteering](#) or copy the link
 - <http://las-americas.org/get-involved-2/volunteer>

4. [Sign up to volunteer as a Child Advocate with the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights](#)

- a. “Make a difference in the life of an unaccompanied immigrant child by volunteering to serve as a Child Advocate in Chicago, Houston, San Antonio, Harlingen, Phoenix, Los Angeles, New York, or Washington, D.C.”
- b. “Who are Child Advocates?: A Child Advocate is an adult who volunteers to spend time with and advocate on behalf of an individual unaccompanied immigrant child while he or she is subject to deportation proceedings. We welcome volunteers from all cultures, professions, races, ethnicities and social backgrounds. Advocates must be at least 21 years old. We have a particular need for bilingual volunteers who speak Spanish. In Chicago, we always need volunteers who speak Mandarin, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Bengali, Romanian and other languages.”

5. [Join the Moveon.org Text Team](#)

- a. We're texting now for families! Recently we've also been texting to GOTV in special elections, generate calls re net neutrality, and other progressive issues.
- b. You can do it from phone or laptop - once you learn it's easy, and there's great support.

6. For Lawyers: [Volunteer with the CARA Pro-Bono Family Detention Project](#)

- a. The greatest need is for attorneys, law students, and paralegals with interest and experience in asylum work.

C. Donate

1. The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services

- “Who is this fundraiser for? This fundraiser is for The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES). RAICES is the largest immigration legal services non-profit in TX, focusing on under-served immigrant children, families and refugees. From their Facebook page: “RAICES is an

organization that serves immigrants and refugees in our community by providing immigration-related legal services, advocacy and opportunities for educational and social support. We believe that by actively promoting the well-being and informed participation of immigrants and refugees in the community, everyone benefits.” Their Facebook page is here: <https://www.facebook.com/raicestexas/> and their website is <https://www.raicestexas.org/> “

- [Click here](#) for their FAQ google doc explaining the organization and use of the money
- [Click here to donate](#) or copy the link:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/donate/490507544717085/10213584944232615/>

2. Immigrant Defense Project

- “The Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) was founded 20 years ago to combat an emerging human rights crisis: the targeting of immigrants for mass imprisonment and deportation. During the past two decades, IDP developed deep expertise on how to protect and expand the rights of immigrants at the intersection of the criminal legal and immigration systems. We have remained stalwart in the defense of our vulnerable immigrant communities, family members, friends, and loved ones, rooted in the principle that no one is disposable. IDP is uniquely positioned to address the current crisis of the criminalization of immigrants.”
- [Click here to donate](#) or copy the link:
 - <https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/donate/>

3. Asylum Seekers Advocacy Project

- “The Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) works to prevent wrongful deportations by connecting refugee families to community support and emergency legal aid. ASAP was founded in May 2015 as a volunteer effort led by four law school classmates: Conchita Cruz, Swapna Reddy, Dorothy Tegeler, and Liz Willis.”
- [Click here to donate](#) or copy the link:
 - <https://asylumadvocacy.org/donate>

4. Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center

- [Click here to donate](#) money or supplies
 - Here is a link to their supply Wish List:
 - <http://las-americas.org/get-involved-2/donate/>

5. Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights

- The Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights is looking for more child advocates to visit the immigrant kids inside the detention centers weekly and accompany them to immigration proceedings.
- It is also [raising money](#) for advocates who will deal specifically with family separation cases.

- <https://www.theyoungcenter.org/donate-to-the-young-center/>

6. More great and impactful organizations to donate to can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

D. Protests:

- 1. Saturday, June 23: Buses from around the state and around the country are traveling to Washington, D.C. for the Poor People's Campaign Mass Rally & Moral Revival.**
 - a. See a promo video here:
<https://www.facebook.com/aneppc/videos/1716788838417284/>
 - b. Sign up to get on a bus from New York State: <http://bit.ly/nyppcdc>
 - c. **[For Tompkins County:](#) FREE! GET ON THE BUS TO WASHINGTON, D.C. MASS RALLY & MORAL REVIVAL Saturday, June 23, 2018 Thousands will gather in our nation's capital to Stand Against Poverty with the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.**
 - i. The bus makes a stop in Cortland, NY at 2:30 AM on June 23 and returns at midnight from DC.
 - ii. Rides available to and from the bus in Cortland.
 - iii. Contact Joanna Green at joannajgreen@gmail.com for info
- 2. Saturday, June 30th. Join a massive mobilization in DC or find one close to home via <https://www.familiesbelongtogether.org/>**
 - a. "On June 30, we're going to the White House to tell Donald Trump and his administration to stop separating kids from their parents! Families belong together, and we need to end this -- now. Every day, this administration is cruelly separating children from their families. They have proven that whether it's at the border or in detention, we can't trust them to care for children." If you can't make it to DC, go to [FamiliesBelongTogether.org](https://www.familiesbelongtogether.org/) for more information on local events across the country."
 - b. [Visit the Facebook Event Page Here](#)
 - c. **Tompkins County: Ithaca will be hosting a rally and teach-in from 11-2PM on the 23rd at the Bernie Milton Pavillion on the Commons. More info to follow, Facebook event here:**
<https://www.facebook.com/events/267010757208009/>

E. Spread the Facts in Your Networks:

[From Michelle Martin, PhD Cal State Fullerton via Karen Brown on Facebook](#)

Have you heard that children were separated from their parents under Obama & Clinton? Then, you need a little Facts vs Myths lesson. Michelle Martin, PhD Cal State Fullerton summed up the most important FACTS:

There is so much misinformation out there about the Trump administration's new "zero tolerance" policy that requires criminal prosecution, which then warrants the separating of parents and children at the border. Before responding to a post defending this policy, please do your research...As a professor at a local Cal State, I research and write about these issues, so here, I'll make it easier for you:

Myth: This is not a new policy and was practiced under Obama and Clinton - FALSE. The policy to separate parents and children is new and was instituted on 4/6/2018. It was the brainchild of John Kelly and Stephen Miller to serve as a deterrent for undocumented immigration, approved by Trump, and adopted by Sessions. Prior administrations detained migrant families, but didn't have a practice of forcibly separating parents from their children unless the adults were deemed unfit. <https://www.justice.gov/.../press-rele.../file/1049751/download...>

Myth: This is the only way to deter undocumented immigration - FALSE. Annual trends show that arrests for undocumented entry are at a 46 year low, and undocumented crossings dropped in 2007, with a net loss (more people leaving than arriving). Deportations have increased steadily though (spiking in 1996 and more recently), because several laws that were passed since 1996 have made it legally more difficult to gain legal status for people already here, and thus increased their deportations (I address this later under the myth that it's the Democrats' fault). What we mostly have now are people crossing the border illegally because they've already been hired by a US company, or because they are seeking political asylum. Economic migrants come to this country because our country has kept the demand going. But again, many of these people impacted by Trump's "zero tolerance" policy appear to be political asylum-seekers. <https://www.npr.org/.../arrests-for-illegal-border-crossings-...>

Myth: Most of the people coming across the border are just trying to take advantage of our country by taking our jobs - FALSE. Most of the parents who have been impacted by Trump's "zero tolerance" policy have presented themselves as political asylum-seekers at a U.S. port-of-entry, from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Rather than processing their claims, they have been taken into custody on the spot and had their children ripped from their arms. The ACLU alleges that this practice violates the Asylum Act, and the UN asserts that it violates the UN Treaty on the State of Refugees, one of the few treaties the US has ratified. This is an illegal act on the part of the United States government, not to mention morally and ethically reprehensible. <https://www.nytimes.com/.../meatpackers-profits-hinge-on-pool...>

Myth: We're a country that respects the Rule of Law, and if people break the law, this is what they get - FALSE. We are a country that has an above-ground system of immigration and an underground system. Our government (under both parties) has always been aware that US companies recruit workers in the poorest parts of Mexico for cheap labor, and ICE (and its predecessor INS) has looked the other way because this underground economy benefits our country to the tune of billions of dollars annually. Thus, even though the majority of people crossing the border now are asylum-seekers, those who are economic migrants (migrant

workers) likely have been recruited here to do jobs Americans will not do.

<https://www.upi.com/.../Donald-Trump-walls-ign.../2621477498203/>

Myth: The children have to be separated from their parents because their parents must be arrested and it would be cruel to put children in jail with their parents - FALSE. First, in the case of economic migrants crossing the border illegally, criminal prosecution has not been the legal norm, and families have been kept together at all cost. Also, crossing the border without documentation is typically a misdemeanor not requiring arrest, but rather a civil proceeding. Additionally, parents who have been detained have historically been detained with their children in ICE "family residential centers," again, for civil processing. The Trump administration's shift in policy is for political purposes only, not legal ones. See p. 18: <https://www.aclu.org/.../ms-l-v-ice-plaintiffs-opposition-def...>

Myth: We have rampant fraud in our asylum process the proof of which is the significant increase we have in the number of people applying for asylum. FALSE. The increase in asylum seekers is a direct result of the increase in civil conflict and violence across the globe. While some people may believe that we shouldn't allow any refugees into our country because "it's not our problem," neither our current asylum law, nor our ideological foundation as a country support such an isolationist approach. There is very little evidence to support Sessions' claim that abuse of our asylum-seeking policies is rampant. Also, what Sessions failed to mention is that the majority of asylum seekers are from China, not South of the border. Here is a very fair and balanced assessment of his statements: <http://www.politifact.com/.../jeff-sessions-claim-about-asyl.../>

Myth: The Democrats caused this, "it's their law." FALSE. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats caused this, the Trump administration did (although the Republicans could fix this today, and have refused). I believe what this myth refers to is the passage of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, which were both passed under Clinton in 1996. These laws essentially made unauthorized entry into the US a crime (typically a misdemeanor for first-time offenders), but under both Republicans and Democrats, these cases were handled through civil deportation proceedings, not a criminal proceeding, which did not require separation. And again, even in cases where detainment was required, families were always kept together in family residential centers, unless the parents were deemed unfit (as mentioned above). Thus, Trump's assertion that he hates this policy but has no choice but to separate the parents from their children, because the Democrats "gave us this law" is false and nothing more than propaganda designed to compel negotiation on bad policy.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/.../trump-democrats-us-border-m...>

Myth: The parents and children will be reunited shortly, once the parents' court cases are finalized. FALSE. Criminal court is a vastly different beast than civil court proceedings. Also, the children are being processed as unaccompanied minors ("unaccompanied alien children"), which typically means they are sent into the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS). Under normal circumstances when a child enters the country without his or her parent, ORR attempts to locate

a family member within a few weeks, and the child is then released to a family member, or if a family member cannot be located, the child is placed in a residential center (anywhere in the country), or in some cases, foster care. Prior to Trump's new policy, ORR was operating at 95% capacity, and they simply cannot effectively manage the influx of 2000+ children, some as young as 4 months. Also, keep in mind, these are not unaccompanied minor children, they have parents. There is great legal ambiguity on how and even whether the parents will get their children back because we are in uncharted territory right now. According to the ACLU lawsuit (see below), there is currently no easy vehicle for reuniting parents with their children. Additionally, according to a May 2018 report, numerous cases of verbal, physical and sexual abuse were found to have occurred in these residential centers. <https://www.aclu.org/.../aclu-obtains-documents-showing-wides...>

Myth: This policy is legal. LIKELY FALSE. The ACLU filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration on 5/6/18, and a recent court ruling denied the government's motion to dismiss the suit. The judge deciding the case stated that the Trump Administration policy is "brutal, offensive, and fails to comport with traditional notions of fair play and decency." The case is moving forward because it was deemed to have legal merit. <https://www.bloomberg.com/.../aclu-suit-over-child-separation...>

F. Educate

- a. [Check out Catalyst Project's incredible Immigration Justice curriculum here](#)

G. Vote

[Figure out what local elections are coming up and vote for candidates who support immigrant justice](#)