



ISSOP

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY for
SOCIAL PEDIATRICS and CHILD HEALTH

Response to US government's separation of families and violation of child and human rights.

As the only global organization advancing the principles and practice of social pediatrics and child rights, and the source of the Budapest Declaration on the *Rights, Health, and Well-being of Children on the Move*, we, jointly with other national and international organizations (see www.ISSOP.org), call on the United States to stop the barbaric abuse of children at the US-Mexican border. The separation of children from their parents, and now the potential for their indefinite incarceration, is a gross violation of their rights, a moral outrage and an affront to all who value the well-being of children and youth. It reflects a gross disregard for the traumatic impact and irreparable harm these acts will have on their physical, mental and social health.

As articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the inhumane treatment of children at your border violates their rights to: non-discrimination (Article 2), the consideration of their best interests in policy decisions (Article 3), optimal survival and development (Article 6), the obligation of the State to ensure that a child should not be separated from his or her parents against their will (Article 9) and to family reunification (Article 10), protection from abuse and neglect (Article 19), and the requirement of the State to provide displaced children protection and humanitarian assistance (Article 22).

Being the only country in the world that has not ratified the CRC does not preclude your responsibility to uphold universally accepted principles, standards and norms for the treatment of children and youth.

It is incumbent on you as a nation and as individuals to be:

- Aware of the violence and poverty that is propelling these children and families to your borders,
- Cognizant of the vulnerabilities of these children,
- Attentive to the impact of their displacement on every aspect of their lives, and
- Mindful of the obligations you have to protect their rights and fulfill their needs.

As pediatricians and others committed to the health and well-being of children, we urge you to:

Stop the ongoing separation of children from their parents.

Reunify families immediately.

Recognize and fulfill the special needs and rights of children.

Respect the dignity of all children.

We urge all global health professionals and others committed to child well-being to join us and the international community in our efforts to stop the State sanctioned abuse of children happening along the Southern US border.