



## *League of United Latin American Citizens*

### **RESOLUTION TO END FAMILY SEPARATIONS AND INCARCERATION OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES SEEKING ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS**, LULAC is our Nation's oldest, largest, and most respected Hispanic/Latino civil rights organization, established in 1929. Our mission is to seek the advancement of Hispanic Americans in the areas of education, employment, and civil rights; and

**WHEREAS**, LULAC describes this week's published revelations about nearly 1,500 immigrant children being held in government custody and not with their parents as a glimpse into a far larger crisis facing thousands of recent arrivals in the U.S. from Mexico and Latin America; and

**WHEREAS**, "Children four years of age and younger are being taken from their mothers and every day [and] families are being torn apart on American Soil," says Past National President and LULAC Civil Rights Chair Rosa Rosales. "We want the Administration to know that we believe strongly [that] children belong with their families, or in the community where advocates can ensure their safety and representation," she adds. "All Americans should be calling their members of Congress and expressing their outrage on family separation in a country that seeks to be the beacon of hope for many"; and

**WHEREAS**, a New York Times article dated Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 titled, "Did the Trump Administration Separate Immigrant Children from Parents and Lose them?" shows that officials learned in 2017 of immigrant children whose whereabouts could not be confirmed according to testimony before a Senate Subcommittee last month. "Our community has received multiple reports stating that ICE and Border Patrol agents have torn babies from their mothers, run over, punched, and sexually abused children," said Hector Flores, LULAC National Immigration Chair and Past National President. "Whether it's at the border or in detention, some of these federal law enforcement officials cannot be trusted with the care of children and their actions must be stopped immediately," he states; and

**WHEREAS**, the ACLU uncovered findings that support these concerns from 30,000 pages obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request. These include numerous statements of inhumane treatment of children while in government custody. "What we don't need now is ICE raiding our neighborhoods and homes under the pretext of looking for immigrant children or agencies refusing to release those children they have in custody," says Rosales. "LULAC shall not rest until these children are reunited with their families and advocates provided to guarantee their safety and access to a fair immigration court process. We will fight vigorously [against] the use of separation as a form of persecution and the denial of fundamental rights to asylum seekers," she concluded; and

**WHEREAS**, senators, representatives, and lawmakers are expressing their outrage on family separation in a country that seeks to be the beacon of hope for many; and

**WHEREAS**, Attorney General Jeff Sessions addressed the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies at their spring conference on May 7, 2018 in Scottsdale, Arizona outlining his plan to separate

migrant children from their parents as a way to deter immigration. Laura St. John, director of the Florence Project, which provides free services to migrants in detention centers, noted that incarceration of children separated from their parents was already in effect before the announcement by Attorney General Sessions. “No parent should have to make this impossible decision, and the U.S. government’s choice to actively pursue this policy as a means of deterrence is unconscionable,” stated director St. John. (“AG Sessions vows to separate kids from parents, prosecute all illegal border-crossers.” [www.azcentral.com](http://www.azcentral.com)); and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Representative Raúl Grijalva (D – AZ 3<sup>rd</sup> District) also criticized the announcement by Attorney General Sessions and said he would work with his colleagues in Congress to block the Trump administration from further targeting families and asylum seekers. “When Sessions says ‘zero-tolerance,’ he really means ‘zero-compassion’ for any immigrant fleeing economic hardship and oppression,” Grijalva said. LULAC joins Representative Grijalva and all Arizonans who seeks justice and a human immigration policy that does not traumatize and inflict unspeakable harm to children and parents now suffering under the “zero tolerance” edict of a government that has violated our nation’s obligation to assist those seeking asylum; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, more than 1,500 children are unaccounted for by federal immigration authorities since last October; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, there are almost 700 children currently separated from their families who are being inhumanely detained in prison-like facilities throughout the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, here in Arizona, at least 60 children aged one to ten years are being detained behind bars by federal authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, as the longest serving and preeminent civil rights advocate for the Latino community, LULAC recognizes the unprecedented repression of Latino immigrants currently being implemented by the federal government;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this LULAC chapter hereby approves and forwards to Arizona LULAC State Convention this resolution calling on the State Convention to also approve and forward this resolution to the LULAC National Convention urging LULAC to push for a declaration of a national state of emergency that affects the Latino immigrant community; and

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that this LULAC chapter hereby announces the immediate convening of the leadership of all Latino-serving organizations for the purpose of designing a strategic plan of action to overturn the inhumane policy targeting separation of immigrant families, and to work with all private and public interest groups to secure humane and comprehensive reform of this nation’s immigration law.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2018 LULAC National Convention on July 21, 2018.

Domingo Garcia  
LULAC National President