

**JULY 2018**



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

Area Office of the Carolinas

## **AFSC OFFICE OF THE CAROLINAS**

801 NEW GARDEN RD. GREENSBORO, NC 27410

OFFICE: 336.854.0633 LKHAMALA@AFSC.ORG

AFSC.ORG/GREENSBORO FACEBOOK.COM/AFSCNC

### **A CALL TO ABOLISH ICE AND END FAMILY SEPARATIONS**

For the past several months, the Trump Administration has been detaining migrants crossing over the border and separating them from their children as part of their “Zero Tolerance” policy of deterrence at the Mexico-U.S. Border. After outrage and mass outcry from the national and international community, the Administration changed its stance and supposedly halted the separation of families. Despite that announcement, at least three thousand migrants were already separated and had their children placed in foster families or detention centers around the United States. With no plan or a strategy to reunite families, many remain without information on the whereabouts of their children. Even as they work to find their children, families including those seeking asylum, are being kept in detention centers and the new policy is only leading to further family incarceration.

The change of policy, disorganization and chaos brought renewed national attention to the Trump Administration’s mass deportation agenda. On June 30th, cities all over the country rallied and protested against the inhumane policies and the detention of immigrant children and families. Thousands of NC residents gathered in Greensboro, Raleigh, Winston-Salem, and other cities, wearing white in solidarity rally around immigrant rights.

Actions by the Trump Administration and enforcement practices of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have led to calls to abolish ICE altogether. This message has picked up momentum across the country. Amidst the controversial practices and a history of racial profiling, misconduct, and human rights violations, AFSC has also joined the campaign to defund and dismantle ICE and keep them out of our communities. AFSC stands with immigrant families seeking safety and support. Learn more at [www.afsc.org/abolish-ice](http://www.afsc.org/abolish-ice).

#### **A disturbing historical (and contemporary) trend**

As we rally against the current separation of immigrant families, it is important to acknowledge that our country has a disturbing history of separating families of color. During slavery, Black babies were torn from their enslaved mothers and families were regularly separated. Native American children were taken away into re-education boarding schools in the late 1800s. Families were broken up and detained in Japanese internment camps in the 1940s. And today, the prison system routinely divides families. There are approximately 2.7 million children in the U.S with an incarcerated parent. Some are locked up because they can’t afford to bail out, others because drug addiction and mental illness are treated through the criminal legal system instead of as public health issues, and still others because of draconian punitive sentencing policies. Read more about how our anyone concerned about family separation should also be concerned about our prison system here: <http://tiny.cc/familysep>. These issues are connected; by recognizing and lifting up these connections, we can work together, fight for each other, and strengthen our movements for freedom for all.



## MUSLIM BAN UPHELD BY SUPREME COURT

In late June, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of upholding the Trump Administration's Muslim Ban, after the third attempt to get it enacted. The court ruled that it did not violate the Immigration and Nationality Act nor the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, validating the claim that it was done for national security. With this ruling, the administration will continue to enforce the ban of individuals from four Muslim majority countries: Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Iran along with Venezuela and North Korea. AFSC opposes this decision and will continue to oppose forms of legalized oppression that take place under this administration.



### AFSC opposes the racist and divisive Muslim ban in any form.

No one should be barred from entering the U.S. or have their rights violated in any way because of their religion or because they are a refugee. We will continue to stand with Muslim and refugee communities.



## 6th ANNUAL UNDOCUGRADUATION

Students in North Carolina kicked off their summer by taking to the General Assembly and lobbying for in-state tuition for undocumented students. Over sixty students gathered in Raleigh and spent the day talking to legislators from their district on the benefits and reasons to support tuition equity for the thousands of students who are graduating from high schools but facing the burden of having to pay out of state tuition to attend higher education institutions. Students who have been in North Carolina since infancy spoke passionately about their goals and dreams despite having to face obstacles due to their legal status. Senate Bill 652 and House Bill 734 would grant in-state tuition for students who attended high school in North Carolina for three consecutive years but the bill lacks Republican support. North Carolina's in-state tuition policy advises for students who have resided in the state for two years to be given in-state tuition costs.





## WHY WE STAND WITH IMMIGRANTS— A MULTIRACIAL CONVERSATION

After a summer of outrage, devastating policies, and numerous attacks on the immigrant and refugee population, groups are assessing ways to move forward and use their collective power. As a way to educate and raise awareness among activists on immigration, Down Home NC and AFSC hosted a bilingual webinar on immigration issues. The Down Home Alamance Chapter is a multi-issue organization that works on raising wages, Medicaid, and finding solutions to problems in the community. Rion Thompson and Jeremiah Jayne from Down Home NC spoke on the importance of showing solidarity and understanding the intersectionality of movements with other people of color, disenfranchised, and marginalized members of our community. We are grateful for the partnership!



## ALAMANCE COUNTY HOSTS NATIONAL “CHINGA LA MIGRA” TOUR, HIGHLIGHTING OPPOSITION TO 287G IMMIGRATION PROGRAM



“Si tacos quiere, tacos le damos!!” chanted the crowd of hundreds in front of the Alamance County Sheriff’s Office on June 13, as community members carried a plate of “No 287g” tacos into the office. “If he wants tacos, we’ll give him tacos!” refers to racially charged comments made by the Sheriff to “bring [him] some taco eaters” back when County was known as the most dangerous county in the state for Latinxs under the 287(g) deportation program. 287(g) is a partnership between local law enforcement and immigration authorities that essentially turns Sheriff’s Deputies into ICE agents. Sheriff Terry Johnson’s practices led the Department of Justice to investigate Sheriff him for racial profiling, and President Obama cancelled his 287g contract. However, in the last year, Sheriff Johnson has applied for the county to rejoin the program.

AFSC’s grassroots immigrant group Siembra led the action on June 13 and was joined by the national group Mijente on their Chinga la Migra/ Resist ICE Tour and a lively mariachi band in what was likely the largest demonstration to take place in Graham, NC in years. The county commissioners will be voting later this year on whether to reinstate the controversial deportation program but there is public scrutiny mounting.

Do you know business owners, faith leaders or regular people in Alamance County who want to help with our campaign to stop the sheriff from re-entering ICE’s 287(g) program? Please share this sign-up form with them: <http://tiny.cc/no287g>.

Check out a News & Observer article about the action and campaign at <http://tiny.cc/nando287g>.



## TIPS FOR HOW TO TALK ABOUT TRUMP'S ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Our immigration policies should recognize that no matter where we were born, all people deserve to be treated humanely. But right now we are seeing the devastating effects of militarized immigration enforcement, as the Trump Administration ramps up raids, detentions, and deportations of immigrants. The administration is also treating asylum seekers and others arriving to our country inhumanely, limiting their access to due process, separating children from their parents, and upholding a so-called "zero tolerance" policy of criminally prosecuting all people crossing the border between ports of entry.

While Trump has accelerated punitive enforcement measures and introduced new cruel policies, much of what we are seeing today has roots in the past. For years the United States has treated immigrants as a threat to be managed rather than human beings who are our co-workers, friends, families, and neighbors. By accepting the overall "threat narrative," and defending specific individuals or groups of immigrants, advocates can unwittingly reinforce harmful ideas about immigrants and fail to advance reasonable policies that treat everybody humanely. Bad messaging – even if well-intentioned – can do more harm than good.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when you talk about immigration:

### 1. *Immigrants are people who move – and are part of "us."*

Always use inclusive language that emphasizes immigrants' humanity and full membership in our communities: our neighbors, friends, and families.

### 2. *Avoid "good immigrants" versus "bad immigrants" talk.*

All people deserve to be treated humanely, whether they were valedictorians or not, whether they have a legal asylum claim or not, whether they were brought to the U.S. as children or came here on their own. When people say, for example, that young people came to the U.S. "through no fault of their own," it opens the door to thinking that others deserve blame for coming to this country. But being an undocumented immigrant is not a moral failing, it is the result of racist and exclusionary immigration laws. Similarly when the Obama administration said it wished to deport "felons, not families," it not only rested on a false dichotomy (people who have been convicted of crimes have families, after all) but also reinforced the fusion of immigration and "threat" in the public conversation. The idea that some immigrants deserve compassion and others do not undermines support for humane treatment for all – so avoid divisive language.

### 3. *Check your assumptions – and reject the threat narrative.*

Welcoming new people and encouraging immigration has been a core part of the American story. Yet throughout history,



nativists and immigration restrictionists have portrayed newcomers as an economic, cultural, or security threat. Unfortunately, however unfounded, threat narratives have dominated our public conversation about immigrants. That's why it's so important that you don't reinforce the idea that any immigrants should be excluded, restricted, or deported.

Militarizing immigration enforcement, expanding immigrant jails to cage people, and prosecuting everybody at the border does not make us safer indeed, this anti-immigrant machinery irreparably harms and instills fear in our communities. Nobody should be deported, and immigrants should not be treated as a threat - and our language should reflect it.

—Carly Goodman, part of AFSC's Media Uncovered Team

<https://www.afsc.org/blogs/media-uncovered/how-to-talk-about-family-separation>

