



Church of God in Christ Statement on United States Policy of Separating Immigrant Families

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Church Of God In Christ is joining with other faith organizations to urge the U.S. government to cease the policy of separating immigrant families. The administration of President Donald Trump has engaged in a policy of separating families and criminally prosecuting all people who cross the American border without prior authorization. As Christians, who represent a faith perspective that is concerned for the well-being of vulnerable persons crossing our borders to seek asylum from dangers that threaten their lives, we are deeply troubled by both our government's callous response and its audacity to misappropriate Scripture to justify its actions.

Scripture teaches "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native born." - Leviticus 19:33

Jesus said, "If anyone causes one of these little ones to stumble, it would be better for them to have a millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." - Matthew 18:6

The human family is strengthened and supported by the family unit, which is blessed by God as society's foundational structure. Separating families and causing children irreparable harm and trauma is beneath the values of Scripture and of our nation. The physical and emotional well being of children, regardless of nationality, is rooted in the security of the family. Separating families seeking a safe and sufficient life is cruel and demoralizing.

This administration must neither undermine the character of America nor negate longstanding policies that provided protection for those fleeing violence. We call on our constituents across the world and our fellow brothers and sisters of faith to speak with clarity in condemning this inhumane policy and demanding that America live up to its stated egalitarian values.