



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN
Resolution to End Border Patrol Removal of
Children from Their Parents

WHEREAS, in early March 2018, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a class action lawsuit against the U.S. government for separating immigrant parents from their children while the families sought asylum. As part of that lawsuit, immigration attorneys had identified 429 cases in which parents were separated from children at the border; and

WHEREAS, *The New York Times* reported that more than 700 children had been separated from adults who they said were the children's parents and more than 100 of those children were under the age of 4. Officials at the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) had previously denied that so many children had been taken, but after three officials confirmed the number, OHS also confirmed more than 700 children had been taken; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has sanctioned splitting up families at the border and children have been taken to other locations thousands of miles away. As early as 2016, as Associated Press investigation found that more than two-dozen unaccompanied children had been sent to homes where they were sexually assaulted, starved or forced to work for little or no pay. Under pressure, the Health and Human Services agency stepped up its efforts to keep track of what is happening to these migrant children, and in May 2018, the agency made the stunning revelation that of the 7,500 children the federal government had placed with sponsors, it was unable to find out what happened to 1,475 of these children, so these children are unaccounted for.

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2018, *Business Insider* reported that due to the Trump administration's Zero Tolerance Policy, there has been a 21% surge in the number of children that have been separated from their parents. Over 10,000 children have been taken into government custody and placed in ten shelters around the country.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) vehemently opposes the Trump Administration's DHS's practice of separating children of immigrants from their parents at the border of entry as an inhumane act that is morally reprehensible. NFDW demands that the U. S. Congress take immediate action to end this shameful act of separation and denying parents the ability to apply for asylum in violation of international asylum protocols.

Susanna French, NFDW President

Submitted by the NFDW Legislative Committee from the floor
Adopted as amended by the NFDW Members at the 47th National Convention
on June 17, 2018