

Unitarian Universalists, or UUs, covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part. These principles are grounded in the understanding that the Holy resides within each of us, and in what is between us, our relationships. They are our theological basis for seeking justice and bringing love. Last week, UUs from across the world met at our annual general assembly, and, grounded in this theology of Holy relationship, we approved a resolution. I share today that resolution.

White supremacy and colonization permeate societal systems;

Zero-tolerance policy forces family separation;

Asylum seekers are detained, criminalized, and dehumanized;

Established asylum protections have been dismantled;

Current immigration policy fails to honor our treaties/conventions/protocols, and established immigration law;

The U.S. has withdrawn from the UN Human Rights Council;

White supremacy criminalizes black and brown bodies and the exercise of their rights;

Children are torn from their families at borders, conflict zones, and occupied territories around the globe;

Children are abused and drugged in detention and shelters;

Incarceration and separation causes trauma; and

This is an urgent and emerging crisis that calls UUs to act now. The Trump

Administration has instituted a zero-tolerance practice of unilaterally detaining and separating family members of asylum seekers and other immigrants. They subsequently issued an Executive Order that purportedly ends the practice while denying responsibility for creating the crisis in the first place. The Executive Order does not address or require the reunification of children already separated from their families.

Additionally, there is no guarantee of the immediate or future safety and appropriate treatment of asylum seekers. The administration has requested that the court revise the 1997 ruling that prevents detaining children for more than 20 days. They are expressly asking to detain children with their families for the duration of their legal proceedings. ICE has a history of terrorizing and abusing immigrants and operating outside the law. As the agency carrying out the administration's barbaric policies, it must be dismantled so humane and appropriate processes and agencies can be created.

Unitarian Universalists demand the immediate:

- Reunification of children taken from their families seeking asylum in the US;
- End of the policy of incarcerating asylum seekers, including those in family detention;
- Investigation and cessation of the inappropriate administration of psychiatric drugs to children in detention and shelters;
- Investigation and prosecution of claims that children in detention and shelters are being sexually and physically abused;
- Abolition of Immigration Customs Enforcement and implementation of a system that understands the causes for migration, provides a non-carceral solution while asylum seekers await a decision on their case, and has a fundamental commitment to keeping families together; and
- Removal of immigration oversight from the Department of Homeland Security.

This is necessary and holy work. We are here to do it. Blessed be, and amen.