



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Issues Letter to the  
Departments of Justice and Homeland Security  
Denouncing Separation of Immigrant Families**

Washington, DC – Today, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, by majority vote, issued a letter to Attorney General Sessions and Secretary Nielsen urging the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to stop separating children from their families after crossing our southern border. This policy changed longstanding border enforcement practices with no clear evidence that it increases border security. The policy ignores the reality that many of those coming to the border are desperately seeking asylum, fully within the parameters of our nation's immigration laws. The Commission majority views this policy as inhumane and against the best interests of the children and families. The Commission calls on the Departments to stop this approach, which subverts the fair administration of justice and may discriminate against families on the basis of their national origin. The letter may be viewed on the Commission's [website](#).

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7<sup>th</sup> decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For more information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).