

Mapping the Cruelty:

The Trump Administration's Attacks on Immigrant Children Under Cover of COVID-19

Since March 2020, often under the pretext of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump Administration has dramatically escalated its attacks on the legal protections and family unity of immigrant children who seek safety in the United States. This graphic maps out the administration's ongoing assault.

U.S. Southern Border



"Expulsions" of unaccompanied children

Since March, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has "expelled" **over 2,000** children that fled to the U.S. southern border - placing them at risk of human trafficking and other grave harm by denying them entry and depriving them of protection screenings and court hearings mandated under bipartisan statute - even holding them in unregulated hotel rooms.

Mexico and Central America



Forced returns of unaccompanied children to dangerous conditions

Throughout the pandemic, DHS has returned unaccompanied children to Mexico and Central America **without proper safety precautions** and in complete disregard for the increasing health risks and threats of violence facing returned kids.



U.S. Interior

Fast-track deportations of unaccompanied children

In recent months, DHS has sought to fast-track the deportation of certain unaccompanied children living in the U.S. interior - particularly children previously sent to Mexico under the harmful Migrant Protection Protocols - by **stripping them of court proceedings required by law**.



Family Detention Centers in TX & PA

Renewed family separation

In May, at family detention centers in Texas and Pennsylvania, DHS launched a renewed family separation initiative by **forcing parents to choose** between keeping their families detained indefinitely and facing separation from their children.



Policy Recommendations Regarding Cruelty to Children

1

In accordance with federal law, the Trump Administration should exempt unaccompanied children from border expulsions to ensure they are not in immediate danger and can meaningfully present their protection claims;

2

DHS should halt the practice of fast-track deportations that are denying unaccompanied children already within the United States a full and fair court proceeding as Congress intended; and

3

DHS should release detained families together, and never again force parents to accept separation from their children as the only means of obtaining their children's release from detention.

How You Can Stand Up to the Trump Administration's Attacks on Kids



SPEAK UP

[Send this one-click letter](#) to your representatives urging them to hold the Trump Administration accountable for its attacks on kids.



SIGN PETITION

[Sign this petition](#) calling upon the Trump Administration to cease its expulsions of unaccompanied children at the U.S. southern border and to end family separation.

Relevant Resources and Media Coverage

- [Letter from 122 nonprofit organizations](#) urging DHS to end its attacks on immigrant children.
- [Letter from over 75 nonprofit organizations](#) calling upon the Trump Administration to halt its expulsions of unaccompanied children.
- KIND Policy Brief: "[Border Closure Exposing Children to Heightened Risk of Trafficking and Exploitation.](#)"
- Lawsuits against expulsions: [J.B.B.C. v. Wolf](#) and [G.Y.J.P. v. Wolf](#).
- USA Today: "[The Trump administration is turning away unaccompanied children at the border because of coronavirus.](#)"
- New York Times: "[10 Years Old, Tearful and Confused After a Sudden Deportation.](#)"
- Newsweek: "[ICE Accused of Using Coronavirus Crisis to Launch 'Family Separation 2.0'](#)"
- Pro Publica and Texas Tribune: "[The Trump Administration Is Rushing Deportations of Migrant Children During Coronavirus.](#)"
- CNN: "[Health experts slam Trump administration's use of public health law to close border.](#)"

