

**Resolution on Cessation of Family Separations for Refugees
Arriving at the United States Borders**

Whereas “refugees should not be penalized for their illegal entry or stay,” and not be “charged with immigration or criminal offenses relating to the seeking of asylum, or being arbitrarily detained purely on the basis of seeking asylum,” (UN General Assembly resolution 429(V) of December 14, 1950;

Whereas the US Department of Justice recently announced a coercive “zero tolerance policy” resulting in the traumatic separation of 2,000 children from immigrant parents and the subsequent incarceration of children in secretive detention centers;

Whereas US Department of Homeland Security has responsibility for CBP and ICE enforcement of border security;

Whereas the American Civil Liberties Union is filing a lawsuit against US immigration authorities for separating children from their parents;

Whereas the Department of State has responsibility for implementation of the US Strategy for Central America (Strategy) and while this Strategy supports and complements the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity (A4P), a joint initiative adopted by the Northern Triangle Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; and

Whereas the UN Human Rights Office has condemned the US practice of separating children from their parents at the border as “a serious violation of the rights of the child;” now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. demands that President Trump honor the US agreement with of the UN General Assembly resolution 429(V) of December 14, 1950 regarding refugees;
2. demands the US Department of Justice immediately discontinue its “zero tolerance policy” and reunite children who have been separated from their families;
3. urges the Secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security, Kirstjen M. Nielsen, to instruct the CBP and ICE to establish a more humane policy for families arriving at our borders who are seeking refugee status;
4. will join an amicus brief in support of the ACLU’s case that opposes the US government’s “zero tolerance policy;”
5. urges the US Congress to dedicate increased resources to the Department of State to provide additional educational and library support to the Northern Triangle countries in

conjunction with the American Library Association and other non-governmental agencies working in those countries; and

6. urges Nikki Haley, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, to correct the U.S. policy on the “rights of the child” and to work within the United Nations guidelines for the treatment of refugees arriving at our borders.

Mover: Mario A. Ascencio, (202) 427-5317

Seconders: Name, Position, Cell Phone #

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