



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

1707 New Hampshire Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20009 | (202) 986-2400 | Telefax (202) 986-2513

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Call to Action

Separation of Immigrant Families at the Texas Border

In accordance with our standing resolutions on immigration, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. releases the following statement and Call to Action about the inhumane treatment of children and families at the southern border between the United States and Mexico.

Members of the Sorority and their families have watched in horror, the scenes of children being taken from their parents—some as young as seven months old. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has a long-standing policy on non-discriminatory, human treatment of immigrants who come to our shores, as well as support for women and families fleeing from domestic violence and other forms of abuse. Women and families who are seeking refuge from violence and persecution in their homelands should not be met with the same type of treatment here in the United States. Moreover, children are not bargaining chips. They are the most precious gift of the Creator. Stripping children and infants, from their mothers and fathers is cruel and may have lasting effects long after this policy ends.

As an international Sorority of college educated women built upon Christian principles, it is beyond disturbing to see the chief law enforcement officer of the United States and other members of the Executive Branch misuse and distort the sacred Christian text to defend this most cruel policy. We are reminded that Jesus' second Great Commandment is to "Love your neighbor as yourself." This is the antithesis of love.

The Sorority recognizes President Trump's recent Executive Order issued on June 20, 2018. However, we are still concerned. There is no available information about how the children already separated will be reunited with their parents; the demand to reverse the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California's settlement order to limit the amount of time and the conditions in which families can be detained; and the order for the military to assist in such detention which harkens back to America's most egregious practices.

We are calling upon all members of our Sorority and those who would join us in this endeavor to: 1) Contact your member of Congress to voice your vehement outrage about this immoral, inhumane policy and, 2) Demand that Congress end any further practice of separating families by passing S. 3606 the Keep Families Together Act.

Members of the Sorority's leadership will participate in the June 30th Rally in Washington, D.C. to openly protest this unnecessary practice, and we encourage sorors to find local peaceful rallies in which to participate as well. Please review and adhere to our Sorority's policy on participation in marches and rallies.

We should not stand idle as leaders at the highest levels of government repeat some of the most tragic aspects of our country's history. We can and must be a better nation than this.

Sisterly,

Beverly E. Smith

Beverly E. Smith
National President and CEO

Shavon Arline-Bradley

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Co-Chair, National Social Action Commission

Rhonda Briggins

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