June 20, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Attorney General Sessions and Secretary Nielsen,

On behalf of the 55 undersigned national and 291 state and local Jewish organizations and institutions, we write to express our strong opposition to the recently expanded “zero-tolerance” policy that includes separating children from their migrant parents when they cross the border. This policy undermines the values of our nation and jeopardizes the safety and well-being of thousands of people.

As Jews, we understand the plight of being an immigrant fleeing violence and oppression. We believe that the United States is a nation of immigrants and how we treat the stranger reflects on the moral values and ideals of this nation.

Many of these migrant families are seeking asylum in the United States to escape violence in Central America. Taking children away from their families is unconscionable. Such practices inflict unnecessary trauma on parents and children, many of whom have already suffered traumatic experiences. This added trauma negatively impacts physical and mental health, including increasing the risk of early death.¹

Separating families is a cruel punishment for children and families simply seeking a better life and exacerbates existing challenges in our immigration system. It adds to the backlog of deportation cases and legal challenges in federal courts, places thousands more immigrants in detention facilities and shelters, endangers the lives of more children, and instills additional fear in people seeking safety in our country. In addition, those seeking asylum or other legal protection face numerous obstacles to making a claim, especially from detention. Separating family members at the border would force families into two or more immigration cases instead of a single case for each family, harming their ability to present a successful case.

Our Jewish faith demands of us concern for the stranger in our midst. Our own people’s history as “strangers” reminds us of the many struggles faced by immigrants today and compels our commitment to an immigration system in this country that is compassionate and just. We urge

you to immediately rescind the “zero tolerance” policy and uphold the values of family unity and justice on which our nation was built.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations**

Academy for Jewish Religion
Ameinu
American Committee for Shaare Zedek
American Conference of Cantors
American Jewish Committee (AJC)
American Jewish World Service
Anti-Defamation League
Avodah
B’nai B’rith International
Be’chol Lashon
Bend the Arc Jewish Action
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Eitzah Center for Congregational Leadership
Eshel
Habonim Dror North America
Hadar Institute
Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
HIAS
Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals
International Association of Women in Radio and Television-USA
International Rabbinic Fellowship
J Street
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance
Jewish Women International
jGirls Magazine
Keshet
Men of Reform Judaism
National Association of Jewish Legislators
National Council of Jewish Women
Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC)
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
New York Board of Rabbis
NFTY – The Reform Jewish Youth Movement
Orthodox Union
Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbinical Council of America
Reconstructing Judaism
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Sephardic Heritage International DC (SHIN DC)
The Association of Rabbis & Cantors
The Cantors Assembly
The Center for Jewish Ethics at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
The Detroit National Center for Civil Discourse
The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding
The Shalom Center
The Workmen's Circle
Tikkun Magazine
Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Union for Reform Judaism
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Uri L'Tzedek, The Orthodox Social Justice Movement
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

State and Local Organizations

**Arizona**
- Arizona Jews for Justice
- National Council of Jewish Women, Arizona Section

**California**
- Adath Israel of San Francisco
- Beit TShuvah
- Beth Jacob Congregation
- Bnai David-Judea
- Community Shul of Montecito and Santa Barbara
- Congregation Kol Shofar
- Jewish Center for Justice
- Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties
- Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
- Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
- Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
- Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley
- Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC)
- Jewish Vocational Service
- Kenesset Israel Torah Center
- Leo Baeck Temple
- National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles Section
- Orange County Jewish Coalition for Refugees Shalom Bayit
- Temple Beth Am
- Temple Beth Emet
- Wilshire Boulevard Temple
- YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue

**Colorado**
- DAT Minyan
- National Council of Jewish Women, Colorado Section

**Connecticut**
- Beth Sholom B'nai Israel
- Congregation Agudath Sholom
- Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford
- Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven
- United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien

**Delaware**
- Jewish Family Services

**District of Columbia**
- Adas Israel Congregation
Florida
Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center
Bet Shira
B'nai Torah Congregation
Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala
Jewish Community Relations Council of the
Greater Miami Jewish Federation
Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando
Miami Beach Jewish Community Center
National Council of Jewish Women, Florida
State Policy Advocate
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater
Miami Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Sarasota/Manatee Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Valencia Shores Section
Orlando Jewish Community Relations Council
Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami/Miami Jewish Federation
Temple Beth Or
Temple Beth Or-Miami
Temple Beth Sholom

Georgia
Hadassah Greater Atlanta
Jewish Community Relations Council of Atlanta

Illinois
Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation
Beth Emet The Free Synagogue
Jewish Child and Family Services Chicago
Jewish Community Relations Council of Chicago
Jewish Community Relations Council of Springfield
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
National Council of Jewish Women, Illinois
State Policy Advocate
National Council of Jewish Women, South Cook Section
New Jewish Outreach-Renewing the Conversation
SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva
Tzedek Chicago

Indiana
Congregation Shaarey Tefiilla, Carmel
Congregation B'nai Jacob
Congregation Beth-El Zedeck
Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne
Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis
Temple Adath B'nai Israel

Iowa
Agudas Achim Congregation
Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines
Temple Adath B'nai Israel
Tifereth Israel Synagogue
University of Iowa Louis Shulman Hillel Foundation

Kansas
Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City

Kentucky
Jewish Federation of Louisville
Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, Inc.
Ohavay Zion Synagogue
National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section

Louisiana
Congregation Beth Israel
Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section
Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation

Maine
National Council of Jewish Women, Maine Section

Maryland
Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation
Baltimore Jewish Council
Habonim Dror Camp Moshava
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
Jews United for Justice
New Tamid
Temple Beth Ami

Massachusetts
Beth Tikvah Synagogue of Westborough
Congregation Dorshui Tzedek
Congregation Shaarei Tefillah
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Children & Family Services of Greater Boston
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
Jewish Vocational Service Boston
Moishe Kavod House
Temple Beth Zion (TBZ)
The Young Israel of Brookline

Michigan
Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC - Detroit
Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County
Kehillat Etz Chayim
National Council of Jewish Women, Michigan State Policy Advocate

Minnesota
Adath Jeshurun Congregation (Hesed and Women’s League)
Bet Shalom Congregation
Beth El Synagogue
Congregation Darchei Noam
Hadassah Minneapolis
Herzl Camp
Hesed Committee- Adath Jeshurun Congregation
Jewfolk, Inc.
Jewish Community Action
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis
Jewish Family Service of St. Paul
Jewish Housing and Programming (J-HAP)
Mayim Rabim Congregation
Minnesota Hillel
Minnesota Rabbinical Association
Mount Zion Temple, St. Paul
National Council of Jewish Women, Minnesota Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Minnesota State Policy Advocate
Rimon: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council
Shir Tikvah Congregation
St. Paul Jewish Federation
Talmud Torah of Saint Paul
Temple Israel
Temple of Aaron
Women of Adath

Minnesota and the Dakotas
Jewish Family and Community Services
Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas
Hadassah Upper Midwest
Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest

Missouri
Bais Abraham Congregation
Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis
Jewish Family & Children's Service of St. Louis

New Jersey
Congregation Bnai Jacob Jersey City.
Highland Park Conservative Temple - Congregation Anshe Emeth
Highland Park Minyan
Jewish Family Service of MetroWest
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest
Maayan of West Orange
National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section
Oheb Shalom Congregation.
Temple Avodat Shalom
Temple Emanu-El
Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center
The Cantors Assembly
United Synagogue of Hoboken

New Mexico
Jewish Care Program
Jewish Federation of New Mexico

New York
Ansche Chesed
Beth David Synagogue
B'nai Jeshurun
Brooklyn Heights Synagogue
Congregation Beth Abraham-Jacob
Congregation Beth Elohim
Congregation Beth Hamedresh - Beth Israel
Congregation Beth Sholom
Congregation Etz Chaim
Congregation Mount Sinai
Congregation Tehillah
Educational Alliance
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
Hillel Community Day School
Jewish Community Relations Council of Buffalo
Jewish Community Relations Council of New York
Jewish Community Relations Council of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester
Jewish Federation and Foundation of Rockland County
Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester
Kane Street Synagogue, Brooklyn
Kolot Chayeinu
Muslim Jewish Solidarity Committee
North Country Reform Temple
Prospect Heights Shul
SAJ: Judaism that Stands for All
Temple Beth Am
Temple Beth David
Temple Beth El of Oneonta
Temple Beth Sholom
Temple Beth-El
Temple B'rith Kodesh
Temple Chaverim of Long Island
Temple Emanu-El
Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie
Temple Israel of the City of New York
Temple Shaaray Tefila
Temple Sinai
The Interfaith Center of New York
The New Jewish Home
Thilah
Union Temple of Brooklyn
West End Synagogue

North Carolina
Beth Meyer Synagogue
Carolina Jews for Justice
Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte
Jewish Federation of Durham Chapel Hill

North Dakota
Temple Beth El

Ohio
Beth Jacob Congregation Columbus Ohio
Cincinnati Jewish Community Relations Council
Congregation Agudas Achim
Congregation Torat Emet
Jewish Community Relations Committee of Columbus
Jewish Family Service of Cincinnati
Jewish Family Services Columbus
Jewish Vocational Service Career Services
K. K. Bene Israel, Rockdale Temple
National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Ohio State Policy Advocate
The Little Minyan Kehilah

Oklahoma
Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City
Jewish Federation of Tulsa

Oregon
Ahavas Torah
Beth Sholom Congregation
Jewish Family & Child Service of Portland
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

Pennsylvania
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Jewish Museum Milwaukee
Milwaukee Jewish Day School
Milwaukee Jewish Federation
Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center
National Council of Jewish Women, Milwaukee Section
The Spark Wisconsin
Wisconsin Council of Rabbis
Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle
Wisconsin Jewish Conference

International

Canada
Adath Israel Poale Zedek Anshei Ozeroff Congregation
National Social Action Committee/Canadian Council for Reform Judaism