

ABNF

Policy Brief



**The Association of Black
Nursing Faculty (ABNF)**

- Professional Development
- Encouragement
- Support
- Communication

The mission of ABNF is to address health issues of concern to the Black community through the scholarly activities of the Black Nursing Professoriate

Policy Statement

The detention and separation of immigrant children from their parents is unjust, inhumane, illegal, and a national tragedy. The Association of Black Nursing Faculty joins hundreds of nursing and medical organizations in calling for the reunification of these children with their parents with all deliberate speed. The process of forced separation of children from their parents is reminiscent of the cruel enslavement of African Americans in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and the 20th century removal of young Native American Indian children from their parents for the purpose of indoctrination and relocation to missionary boarding schools across the United States. In both of these instances, the children and their parents suffered wounds that were lifelong traumatic historical events. Now in the 21st, children, most of who are black and brown babies and children from countries south of the United States border, are subject to a historical pattern rooted in an ideology of white male supremacy and bigotry. It is a deliberate aggressive act of trauma imposed on these children and their families.

The impact of the separation of children from their parents represents a major catastrophic traumatic event in a child's life. Over the past twenty years, numerous studies document the lifelong health effects of parental separation from children. For example, childhood experiences of parental separation are associated with increased risks of schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, chronic depression, psychosis, alcohol and injection drug use disorders, sex work, and premature death from the leading causes of death (Felitti et al., 1998, Brown, et al., 2009; Wu et al., 2010; Duhig et al, 2015; Paksariam et al., 2015; Bohman, Låftman, Päären, & Jonsson, 2017; Larson, Chapman, Spetz, & Brindis, 2017).

Purpose

Above all, the Association of Black Nursing Faculty calls for the reunification of children with their families, humane, legal and moral treatment of children and their families throughout the immigration process upon entering our southern borders

Recommendations

We urge the federal government to cease from exposing children to the traumatic conditions in immigrant detention centers, such as, forcing them in metal cages with no bathing facilities, extreme hot and cold temperatures, open toilets, cement floors for sleeping and sitting for extended periods, inadequate food and water, and environments void of empathy and caring.

These children and their families should have their 14th Amendment, due process rights, which are guaranteed by the United States Constitution to every person regardless of citizenship. These children and their parents should have legal representation throughout the immigration process. Immigrant parents should not be coerced to plead guilty to any charge against them, and face deportation from the United States without their children.

References

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Web Links

Statement About Protecting Health and Wellness of Immigrant Children. Jun 20, 2018. *Nursing Community Coalition*. Accessed at: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/148923_2fccc4d555c418aad70bd66bf971248.pdf

American Academy of Nursing Accessed at: [https://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554\(15\)00335-8/fulltext](https://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554(15)00335-8/fulltext)

National League for Nursing. Accessed at: <http://www.nln.org/newsroom/news-releases/news-release/2018/06/19/the-national-league-for-nursing-responds-to-the-separation-of-families-at-us-borders>

Joint Letter Signed by Nursing Organizations

The following list of nursing organizations represents those organizations that have signed off on the joint statement to the US Secretary of Homeland Security urging the US government to end the policy on separation of immigrant children at the borders:

- American Academy of Nursing
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- American College of Nurse-Midwives
- American Nephrology Nurses Association
- American Nurses Association
- American Organization of Nurse Executives
- American Psychiatric Nurses Association
- American Society for Pain Management Nursing
- Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
- Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
- Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
- Association of Public Health Nurses
- Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
- Dermatology Nurses' Association
- Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
- International Association of Forensic Nurses
- International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
- National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
- National Association of Hispanic Nurses
- National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
- National Association of Neonatal Nurses
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Association of School Nurses
- National Black Nurses Association
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing
- National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
- National League for Nursing
- National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
- Oncology Nursing Society
- Organization for Associate Degree Nursing