

**SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS** In May, the Trump Administration [announced a new “zero tolerance” policy](#), which has resulted in the criminal prosecution of hundreds of individuals seeking asylum. While the adults are jailed and prosecuted, their children are ripped away and put into Office of Refugee Resettlement shelters, which are now overrun with very young children who have become “unaccompanied,” despite the fact that they came seeking asylum with a parent. So far, more than [2,000 children](#) have been separated from their parents, including infants. This is cruel, inhumane, and exceptionally harmful for already traumatized families. As a result of this policy, new shelters for children are opening near [El Paso](#) and in downtown [Houston](#). The Houston shelter, \* to be run by Southwest Keys is set to open in June and will house “tender age” children under 12. Here are a few ways you can work to fight these policies and their impact locally.

*\*We will keep this page updated with information about the Houston shelter.*

## GIVE

Support the organizations that provide **direct legal services** to unaccompanied and separated children and their parents, helping them reunite. In **Houston** those organizations are:

- **Children**
  - [Kids In Need of Defense](#)
  - [Catholic Charities’ Cabrini Center](#)
  - [ABA’s Children’s Immigration Law Academy](#)
  - [Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights](#)
  - [Tahirih Justice Center](#)
- **Adults**
  - [Deportation Defense Houston project](#) (HILSC, YMCA International Services, South Texas College of Law Houston, Baker Ripley, Justice for our Neighbors)

**Around the state**, these organizations are providing direct services to separated children:

- [Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services \(RAICES\)](#) (San Antonio)
- [Human Rights Initiative of North Texas](#) (Dallas)
- [ABA’s ProBar](#) (Rio Grande Valley)
- [Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services \(DRMS\)](#) (El Paso)

Support leaders of local **advocacy & litigation**

- [Texas Civil Rights Project](#) (TCRP)
  - [Civil & Human Rights Groups File Emergency Request to Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to Stop Family Separations, Reunite Families](#) (TCRP)
- [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\) of Texas](#)

## VOLUNTEER

- **Lawyers** can take a pro bono asylum case with:
  - [Human Rights First](#)
  - [Tahirih Justice Center](#)
  - Kids In Need of Defense (Houston)
    - Please contact Claire Doutre at [cdoutre@supportkind.org](mailto:cdoutre@supportkind.org)
  - Catholic Charities (Houston)
    - Email [ProBono@CatholicCharities.org](mailto:ProBono@CatholicCharities.org), complete [Pro Bono Attorney application](#)
- **Anyone** can:
  - **Become a “child advocate”** to work one-on-one with unaccompanied children and advocate for their best interests. Get trained with the [Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights](#). Contact Rachel Wootten at [rwootten@theyoungcenter.org](mailto:rwootten@theyoungcenter.org) to sign up for the next training in Houston.

- Help **take declarations** from separated families with the Texas Civil Rights Project. They are looking for Spanish-speaking (and Mam, Q'eqchi' or K'iche' speaking) volunteers to travel to McAllen, Texas to help interview families. TCRP cannot cover costs related to travel or lodging for volunteers. [Sign up here](#).

## ACTION

Families, advocates, and allies will hold a rally in the park across the street from the Brownsville Federal Court, where immigrants are being prosecuted en masse for crossing the border into the United States, and then separated from their children. Join us at the border and take action to STOP family separation.

- WHAT: [Families Belong Together Rally at the Border](#)
- WHEN: Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM
- WHERE: Linear Park – 1501 E 7th St, Brownsville, TX 78520
- WHO: You, and everyone who knows that #FamiliesBelongTogether

If you will be joining us from Austin, San Antonio, Laredo, or Houston, we will have buses available to transport you to the event. Please fill out the appropriate form to reserve your spot on the bus:

- Austin: <https://goo.gl/Mb9e8a>
- Houston: <https://goo.gl/o2jhV5>
- San Antonio: <https://goo.gl/forms/OJInbfBHBbl15eQ12>
- Laredo: <https://goo.gl/forms/rfDq4kfkli1l94pV2>

This effort is part of the ongoing [#FamiliesBelongTogether](#) campaign to stop the separation of families.

## ADVOCACY TOOLS

- [Call your members of congress!](#)
- [Kids In Need of Defense](#)
- [Families Belong Together Campaign](#)
  - [Host an event or rally!](#)

## LEARN MORE

- [Background on Family Separation at the Border](#) (KIND)
- [How Trump Came to Enforce a Policy of Separating Migrant Families](#) (New York Times)
- [Judge Says Yes To Lawsuit Challenging Trump Administration Family Separation Policy](#) (NPR)
- [Citing basic compassion, federal judge mulling over order preventing family separations in certain cases](#) (The Monitor)