



### **New Rule Threatens Children and Families**

We are called by our faith to care for the vulnerable and challenged by our national values to promote the welfare of our children and to tend the common good. President Trump's continued attempts to use the mistreatment of children to deter those seeking refuge and asylum in the United States is unconscionable. We strongly oppose the administration's efforts to discard the Flores Settlement Agreement safeguards which protect the welfare of migrant children in U.S. government custody.

Children and families should never be incarcerated. First, because detention, even for a short period, has been proven to be detrimental to a child's development, health, and well-being. Secondly, we know that there are effective alternatives to detention, including the Family Case Management System, that are less harmful and far more cost effective. Finally, it is clear that this new rule does not serve the best interests of children. Instead, it undermines existing child protections required by the Flores Agreement.

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