December 8, 2019

Today, in the presence of the God of infinite love, we remember Jakelin Ameí Rosemary Caal Maquin. Born in Rauxruha, Guatemala she died in El Paso, Texas in the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol. Jakelin was just seven years old. We mourn her passing; we pray for her family; and we beg forgiveness for our complicity in her death.

We are called by our faith to care for the vulnerable and challenged by our national values to promote the welfare of all children. We promise to remember, and we pledge to act. As Catholic sisters, as women of faith, we condemn the Trump administration’s actions to deny admission to asylum seekers, to hold children in cages, to imprison families, and to use detention and deportation to punish those seeking safety in our country. We will continue to walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers. We will accompany the mothers, fathers, aunts, and uncles who seek justice and we will never forget God’s precious children.

Carol Zinn, SSJ, Executive Director, Leadership Conference of Women Religious