

For Immediate Release

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Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition Call to Action on Border Crisis and Detention

PORTLAND, MAINE-- The Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition is asking our community to come together on June 30th at Portland City Hall at 3pm and stand in solidarity collectively to urge our legislators to work together to pass bills that ensure the United States remains a safe harbor – that means families seeking asylum should not be detained period.

Parents and their children fleeing violence and civil unrest don't deserve to be ripped apart. They're knocking on America's doors asking for asylum, not free entry. "We are happy that the Trump Administration put an end to this inhumane treatment because breaking up families on American soil shouldn't be our nation's story or legacy."

Children should never be used as baits for negotiation. This is not the America known to immigrants already in Maine and policies like "zero tolerance" continues to create uncertainty which breeds fear in any one seeking asylum. To learn more about the signed Executive Order [click here](#).

What can you do now?

Please contact Maine's Senators and Representatives and ask each of them to **sponsor legislation** that prevents prosecuting asylum seekers in the criminal system unless there are exigent circumstances, and that states that alternatives to detention shall be applied to families being processed by the civil immigration system, unless there are specific, articulated reasons why the presumption that it is in the best interest of the child that children never be detained, even with their parents, should not be followed.

Immigrants from many countries, ethnicities, religions make up the vibrant fabric of the United States. MIRC continues to advocate for a robust immigration system and a welcoming atmosphere for immigrants who make our country - and especially Maine - their home.

MIRC represents 56-member organizations including immigrant constituency groups, advocacy groups, direct service organizations, grassroots community organizations and all who are creating programs and policies reflecting their values and commitment to immigrant inclusion and integration. Our mission is to improve the legal, social and economic conditions experienced by Maine's immigrants – enhancing their lives while strengthening Maine – through advocacy, information sharing and collaboration both through and among our member organizations.

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