June 20, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Attorney General Sessions and Secretary Nielsen,

On behalf of the 56 undersigned national and 293 state and local Jewish organizations and institutions, we write to express our strong opposition to the recently expanded “zero-tolerance” policy that includes separating children from their migrant parents when they cross the border. This policy undermines the values of our nation and jeopardizes the safety and well-being of thousands of people.

As Jews, we understand the plight of being an immigrant fleeing violence and oppression. We believe that the United States is a nation of immigrants and how we treat the stranger reflects on the moral values and ideals of this nation.

Many of these migrant families are seeking asylum in the United States to escape violence in Central America. Taking children away from their families is unconscionable. Such practices inflict unnecessary trauma on parents and children, many of whom have already suffered traumatic experiences. This added trauma negatively impacts physical and mental health, including increasing the risk of early death.¹

Separating families is a cruel punishment for children and families simply seeking a better life and exacerbates existing challenges in our immigration system. It adds to the backlog of deportation cases and legal challenges in federal courts, places thousands more immigrants in detention facilities and shelters, endangers the lives of more children, and instills additional fear in people seeking safety in our country. In addition, those seeking asylum or other legal protection face numerous obstacles to making a claim, especially from detention. Separating family members at the border would force families into two or more immigration cases instead of a single case for each family, harming their ability to present a successful case.

Our Jewish faith demands of us concern for the stranger in our midst. Our own people’s history as “strangers” reminds us of the many struggles faced by immigrants today and compels our commitment to an immigration system in this country that is compassionate and just. We urge

you to immediately rescind the “zero tolerance” policy and uphold the values of family unity and justice on which our nation was built.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Academy for Jewish Religion
Ameinu
American Committee for Shaare Zedek
American Conference of Cantors
American Jewish Committee (AJC)
American Jewish World Service
Anti-Defamation League
Avodah
B’nai B’rith International
Be’chol Lashon
Bend the Arc Jewish Action
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Eitzah Center for Congregational Leadership
Eshel
Habonim Dror North America
Hadar Institute
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
HIAS
Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals
International Association of Women in Radio and Television-USA
International Rabbinic Fellowship
J Street
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance
Jewish Women International
jGirls Magazine
Keshet
Men of Reform Judaism
National Association of Jewish Legislators
National Council of Jewish Women
Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC)
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
New York Board of Rabbis
NFTY – The Reform Jewish Youth Movement
Orthodox Union
Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbinical Council of America
Reconstructing Judaism
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Sephardic Heritage International DC (SHIN DC)  
The Association of Rabbis & Cantors  
The Cantors Assembly  
The Center for Jewish Ethics at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College  
The Detroit National Center for Civil Discourse  
The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding  
The Shalom Center  
The Workmen's Circle  
Tikkun Magazine  
Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Uri L'Tzedeek, The Orthodox Social Justice Movement  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Women’s Rabbinic Network  
Women’s League for Conservative Judaism  

**State and Local Organizations**

### Arizona
- Arizona Jews for Justice  
- National Council of Jewish Women, Arizona Section  

### California
- Adath Israel of San Francisco  
- Beit TShuvah  
- Beth Jacob Congregation  
- Bnai David-Judea  
- Community Shul of Montecito and Santa Barbara  
- Congregation Kol Shofar  
- Jewish Center for Justice  
- Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties  
- Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles  
- Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley  
- Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara  
- Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley  
- Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC)  
- Jewish Vocational Service  
- Keneset Israel Torah Center  
- Leo Baeck Temple  
- National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles Section  
- Orange County Jewish Coalition for Refugees  
- Shalom Bayit  
- Temple Beth Am  
- Temple Beth Emet  
- Wilshire Boulevard Temple  
- YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue  

### Colorado
- DAT Minyan  
- National Council of Jewish Women, Colorado Section  

### Connecticut
- Beth Sholom B'nai Israel  
- Congregation Agudath Sholom  
- Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford  
- Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven  
- United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien  

### Delaware
- Jewish Family Services  

### District of Columbia
<table>
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<th>Location</th>
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| Adas Israel Congregation | New Jewish Outreach-Renewing the Conversation  
| Congregation Bet Mishpachah    | SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva  
| Hill Havurah               | Tzedek Chicago                                                                |
| **Florida**     |                                                                               |
| Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center |                                                      |
| Bet Shira               |                                                                                   |
| Bnai Torah Congregation |                                                                                   |
| Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala |                                                                       |
| Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation |  |
| Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando |                                                                                   |
| Miami Beach Jewish Community Center |                                                                                   |
| National Council of Jewish Women, Florida |                                                           |
| State Policy Advocate |                                                                                   |
| National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Miami Section |                                                                                   |
| *National Council of Jewish Women, Sarasota/Manatee Section* |                                                                                   |
| National Council of Jewish Women, Valencia Shores Section |                                                                                   |
| Orlando Jewish Community Relations Council |                                                                       |
| Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami/Miami Jewish Federation |                                                                                   |
| Temple Beth Or |                                                                                   |
| Temple Beth Or-Miami |                                                                                   |
| Temple Beth Sholom |                                                                                   |
| **Georgia**      |                                                                               |
| Hadassah Greater Atlanta |                                                                                   |
| Jewish Community Relations Council of Atlanta |                                                                                   |
| **Illinois**     |                                                                               |
| Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation |                                                                                   |
| Beth Emet The Free Synagogue |                                                                                   |
| Jewish Child and Family Services Chicago |                                                               |
| Jewish Community Relations Council of Chicago |                                                                                   |
| Jewish Community Relations Council of Springfield |                                                                                   |
| Jewish Council on Urban Affairs |                                                                                   |
| National Council of Jewish Women, Illinois State Policy Advocate |                                                                                   |
| National Council of Jewish Women, South Cook Section |                                                                                   |
| **Indiana**      |                                                                               |
| Congregation Shaarey Tefiilla, Carmel |                                                                                   |
| Congregation B'nai Jacob |                                                                                   |
| Congregation Beth-El Zedeck |                                                                                   |
| Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council |                                                                                   |
| Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne |                                                                                   |
| Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis |                                                                                   |
| Temple Adath B'nai Israel |                                                                                   |
| **Iowa**         |                                                                               |
| Agudas Achim Congregation |                                                                                   |
| Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines |                                                                                   |
| Temple Adath B'nai Israel |                                                                                   |
| Tifereth Israel Synagogue |                                                                                   |
| University of Iowa Louis Shulman Hillel Foundation |                                                                                   |
| **Kansas**       |                                                                               |
| Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City |                                                                                   |
| **Kentucky**     |                                                                               |
| Jewish Federation of Louisville |                                                                                   |
| Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, Inc. |                                                                                   |
| Ohavay Zion Synagogue |                                                                                   |
| National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section |                                                                                   |
| **Louisiana**    |                                                                               |
| Congregation Beth Israel |                                                                                   |
| Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans |                                                                                   |
| National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section |                                                                                   |
| Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation |                                                                                   |
| **Maine**        |                                                                               |
| National Council of Jewish Women, Maine Section |                                                                                   |
| **Maryland**     |                                                                               |
| Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation |                                                                                   |
Baltimore Jewish Council
Habonim Dror Camp Moshava
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
Jews United for Justice
New Tamid
Temple Beth Ami

Massachusetts
Beth Tikvah Synagogue of Westborough
Congregation Dorshoi Tzedek
Congregation Shaarei Tefillah
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Children & Family Services of Greater Boston
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
Jewish Vocational Service Boston
Moishe Kavod House
Temple Beth Zion (TBZ)
The Young Israel of Brookline

Michigan
Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC - Detroit
Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County
Kehillat Etz Chayim
National Council of Jewish Women, Michigan
State Policy Advocate

Minnesota
Adath Jeshurun Congregation (Hesed and Women’s League)
Bet Shalom Congregation
Beth El Synagogue
Beth Jacob Congregation
Congregation Darchei Noam
Hadassah Minneapolis
Herzl Camp
Hesed Committee- Adath Jeshurun Congregation
Jewfolk, Inc.
Jewish Community Action
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis
Jewish Family Service of St. Paul

Jewish Housing and Programming (J-HAP)
Mayim Rabim Congregation
Minnesota Hillel
Minnesota Rabbinical Association
Mount Zion Temple, St. Paul
National Council of Jewish Women, Minnesota Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Minnesota State Policy Advocate
Rimon: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council
Shir Tikvah Congregation
St. Paul Jewish Federation
Talmud Torah of Saint Paul
Temple Israel
Temple of Aaron
Women of Adath

Minnesota and the Dakotas
Jewish Family and Community Services
Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas
Hadassah Upper Midwest
Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest

Missouri
Bais Abraham Congregation
Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis
Jewish Family & Children's Service of St. Louis

New Jersey
Congregation Bnai Jacob Jersey City.
Highland Park Conservative Temple - Congregation Anshe Emeth
Highland Park Minyan
Jewish Family Service of MetroWest
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest
Maayan of West Orange
National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section
Oheb Shalom Congregation.
Temple Avodat Shalom
Temple Emanu-El
Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center
The Cantors Assembly
United Synagogue of Hoboken

New Mexico
Jewish Care Program
Jewish Federation of New Mexico

New York
Ansche Chesed
Beth David Synagogue
B’nai Jeshurun
Brooklyn Heights Synagogue
Congregation Beth Abraham-Jacob
Congregation Beth Elohim
Congregation Beth Hamedresh - Beth Israel
Congregation Beth Sholom
Congregation Etz Chaim
Congregation Mount Sinai
Congregation Tehillah
Educational Alliance
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
Hillel Community Day School
Jewish Community Relations Council of
Buffalo
Jewish Community Relations Council of
New York
Jewish Community Relations Council of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester
Jewish Federation and Foundation of
Rockland County
Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester
Kane Street Synagogue, Brooklyn
Kolot Chayeinu
Muslim Jewish Solidarity Committee
North Country Reform Temple
Prospect Heights Shul
SAJ: Judaism that Stands for All
Temple Beth Am
Temple Beth David
Temple Beth El of Oneonta
Temple Beth Sholom
Temple Beth-El
Temple B’rith Kodesh
Temple Chaverim of Long Island
Temple Emanu-El
Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie
Temple Israel of the City of New York
Temple Shaaray Tefila
Temple Sinai
The Interfaith Center of New York
The New Jewish Home
Thilah
Union Temple of Brooklyn
West End Synagogue

North Carolina
Beth Meyer Synagogue
Carolina Jews for Justice
Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte
Jewish Federation of Durham Chapel Hill

North Dakota
Temple Beth El

Ohio
Beth Jacob Congregation Columbus Ohio
Cincinnati Jewish Community Relations
Council
Congregation Agudas Achim
Congregation Torat Emet
Jewish Community Relations Committee of
Columbus
Jewish Family Service of Cincinnati
Jewish Family Services Columbus
Jewish Federation of Cleveland Community
Relations Committee
Jewish Vocational Service Career Services
K. K. Bene Israel, Rockdale Temple
National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland
Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Ohio
State Policy Advocate
The Little Minyan Kehilah

Oklahoma
Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City
Jewish Federation of Tulsa

Oregon
Ahavas Torah
Beth Sholom Congregation
Jewish Family & Child Service of Portland
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

**Pennsylvania**
- Beth Sholom Congregation
- Congregation B’nai Harim
- Jewish Community Relations Council Greater Philadelphia
- Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Greater Philadelphia
- Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh
- Jewish Family Service of the Lehigh Valley
- Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg
- National Council of Jewish Women, Pennsylvania Advocacy Committee
- Progressive Jewish Voice of Central Pennsylvania
- Temple Beth Sholom, Mechanicsburg
- Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Pittsburgh
- Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley
- Mekor Habracha/Center City Synagogue
- Temple Beth Israel

**South Carolina**
- Charleston Jewish Family Services
- Charleston Jewish Federation
- Community Relations Council of the Columbia Jewish Federation
- Congregation Dor Tikvah
- Greenville Jewish Federation
- The South Carolina Council on the Holocaust

**Tennessee**
- Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee
- Congregation Micah
- Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga
- Memphis Jewish Federation
- Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable
- National Council of Jewish Women, Nashville Section
- National Council of Jewish Women, Tennessee State Policy Advocate
- The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Sholom

**Texas**
- Jewish Family Service Houston
- Jewish Family Service of San Antonio, Texas, Inc.
- Jewish Federation of San Antonio
- National Council of Jewish Women, Austin Section
- National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Dallas Section
- National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Houston Section
- National Council of Jewish Women, San Antonio Section
- National Council of Jewish Women, Texas State Policy Advocate
- National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Houston Section

**Utah**
- National Council of Jewish Women, Utah Section

**Virginia**
- Kol Ami: The Northern Virginia Reconstructionist Community

**Washington State**
- Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue
- Congregation Beth Israel Walla Walla
- Congregation Beth Shalom
- Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation
- Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle
- Kadima Reconstructionist Community
- Kol HaNeshamah
- National Council of Jewish Women, Washington State Policy Advocate
- Temple Beth Hatfiloh
- Temple B’nai Torah
- The Kavana Cooperative
- Washington State Jewish Historical Society

**Wisconsin**
- Beth Hillel Temple
- Coalition for Jewish Learning
- Congregation Beth Jehuda
Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun  
Congregation Sinai  
Hillel at the University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Hillel Milwaukee  
Jewish Community Relations Council, Milwaukee  
Jewish Family Services, Inc.  
Jewish Museum Milwaukee  
Milwaukee Jewish Day School  
Milwaukee Jewish Federation  
Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center  
National Council of Jewish Women, Milwaukee Section  
The Spark Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Council of Rabbis  
Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle  
Wisconsin Jewish Conference  

**International**  

**Canada**  
Adath Israel Poale Zedek Anshei Ozeroff Congregation  
National Social Action Committee/Canadian Council for Reform Judaism