

# THE IMMIGRATION FACTS

## SEPARATED FAMILIES



U.S. law allows **FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS** who have fled a credible fear of persecution to seek asylum in the U.S.


5 The separation of children from their parents is being used by the Dept. of Justice as a deterrent for those who are considering fleeing to the U.S., but yet results in significant trauma to the children.

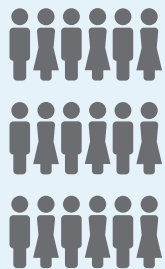


2 As violent gangs have made El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala among the most dangerous countries in the world, the **NUMBER OF PEOPLE FLEEING CENTRAL AMERICA HAS SKYROCKETED**, with many arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border to seek asylum.

6 **IN APRIL 2018**, the Dept. of Health and Human Services stated that the location of 1,475 of 7,635 children placed with sponsors could not be confirmed. They may not necessarily be at risk—it is likely that some, especially those whose sponsors are undocumented, may not want to answer a telephone call from the federal government—**but it does underscore why the new policy of taking children from their parents and treating them as “unaccompanied” is problematic.**

3 A new **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy at the U.S.-Mexico border (being applied even to those seeking asylum) means that all adults caught entering the U.S. improperly are being criminally charged and separated from their children—whereas, previously, the federal government often did not pursue criminal charges and used discretion considering the wellbeing of these children.

7  The decline of refugee resettlement and other legal immigration options for those in Central America has made the situation worse. Families and children facing genuine fear of persecution feel they have no choice but to make the dangerous and often unlawful trip through Mexico in order to seek safety and request asylum in the U.S.



4 These children are then treated as “unaccompanied minors” and placed into the custody of the Dept. of Health and Human Services, which may then identify a family member or other sponsor to provide care until the parent’s immigration court hearing.

8 **THE U.S. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM** has dramatically reduced the admission of refugees to the U.S. from almost all countries; **in 2018, the U.S. is on track to receive only about 22% as many individuals as in 2016.**

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?



**GET INFORMED** about how recent policy changes are affecting people fleeing violence and persecution.



**PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT** to organizations directly addressing these situations, including those providing legal assistance to children and families at the border, serving refugees and engaging in advocacy for immigrants seeking refuge, as well as those addressing the root causes of violence in Central America.



**CALL OR WRITE** to your members of congress. Ask them to speak out against the “zero tolerance” policy that is leading to family separation at the U.S.-Mexico border and to resume a robust U.S. refugee resettlement program.



**PRAY** and ask God to intervene to protect children, to keep families together and reunite those that have been separated, and to restore peace to Central America.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/TJCSeparatedFamilies>