

**WOMEN'S MARCH CHICAGO'S STATEMENT  
ON WHITE HOUSE 'ZERO TOLERANCE' IMMIGRATION POLICY**

Contact: Jessica Scheller (312) 899- 6358 [media@womensmarchchicago.org](mailto:media@womensmarchchicago.org)

June 21, 2018 - Women's March Chicago and its thousands of supporters are outraged by the current administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy that has caused excruciating and indelible pain for families who have been separated at our southern border. As a leading advocate for women's and girl's rights, WMC strongly condemns a policy that is exceptionally harmful and cruel to women and their children. The Executive Order signed yesterday does nothing to reunite these families. We are not fooled by it and will not be placated.

Carrie Kiley, a member of the WMC Board of Directors, issues the following call to action: "Women's March Chicago encourages all of its marchers to hold our government accountable until every child is reunited with their family members. Our organization will not abide the continued detention and isolation of children. They should not be treated as the bargaining chips in an immigration policy dispute. While the executive order signed yesterday was one small step, we will still see families incarcerated in inhumane conditions for seeking safety and refuge in the United States."

To be clear, the White House has provided no support for its claim that women who have come to our borders are "criminals." The truth is that many of these women are fleeing threats of rape, gang violence and political persecution in their homelands and came to our country hoping to find a safe haven for their families. Instead they have had their children — from infants to teens — taken from them with no plans for reunification. Our community deeply understands the anguish these mothers and their children are experiencing. We hear their cries and we hurt with them.

The immediate reunification of these families is a bipartisan issue grounded in the ethics of humanity. The United Nations Human Rights Council has condemned U.S. actions, which threaten to make us outcasts in the global community. This unconscionable and calculated policy can and must be stopped. The WMC community implores our leaders to act immediately, but will not stand silently by waiting for this story to unfold.

Because WMC marchers are advocates for all marginalized people and believe that all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect, we will take to the streets to raise our voices and demand the immediate and permanent cessation of this practice. We further demand the immediate reunification of these women and their children. Acting in solidarity with communities across the country, WMC and our citywide organizing partners will gather on **Saturday June 30** for the **Families Belong Together - Chicago March**.

Please join us for this urgent action: <https://www.facebook.com/events/595067234206454/?ti=c>

To find Families Belong Together marches in other areas, go to <https://act.moveon.org/event/families-belong-together/search/>

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