



LAWYERS CLUB  
of San Diego

## NEWS RELEASE

---

---

***For further information, contact:***

Elaine Lawrence, Executive Director, Lawyers Club of San Diego

Phone: 619-595-0650 E-mail: [Elaine@lawyersclubsandiego.com](mailto:Elaine@lawyersclubsandiego.com)

---

---

### **Lawyers Club of San Diego Issues Statement on Separation of Families at Border**

*For immediate release June 14, 2018*

SAN DIEGO – Lawyers Club of San Diego denounces as cruel and inhumane the recent federal policy directing the separation of parents and children who are detained while attempting to enter the United States without documentation.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently enacted a “zero tolerance” policy for suspected undocumented migrants, removing the ability of local federal prosecutors to exercise discretion in prosecuting undocumented migrants and requiring the prosecution of all adults caught crossing into the United States illegally, including parents traveling with children. The policy has resulted in the forcible separation of parents and children, and the federal government is making no efforts to reunify families.

This policy disproportionately impacts women and women of color, and it inflicts irreparable harm to the emotional and intellectual development of vulnerable children. The “zero tolerance” policy is morally offensive, particularly in light of the United States’ shameful history of removing African, African-American and Native American children from their families.

Lawyers Club supports women’s rights and parents’ rights to protect their children from danger, as well as the inherent human rights of children to be treated with dignity. A parent should not be separated from her child simply because she is suspected of a misdemeanor border-crossing offense. Nor should children be harmed as a deterrent mechanism to keep migrant families from the U.S. border.

Lawyers Club objects to this inhumane policy and calls for its reversal.

#### **About Lawyers Club of San Diego**

Lawyers Club, founded in 1972 with the mission “to advance the status of women in the law and society,” has more than 1,300 members comprised of female and male attorneys, law students, and others in the San Diego community who share Lawyers Club’s interests and goals. For more information about Lawyers Club, visit [www.lawyersclubsandiego.com](http://www.lawyersclubsandiego.com).