



National Indian Child Welfare Association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Official Statement from the National Indian Child Welfare Association on Trump Administration Ending the Forced Separation of Children and Families at the Border**

**(Portland, OR, June 20, 2018)**—The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) calls on the Trump Administration to acknowledge that ending the policy of systematically separating children from families at the border is not over until every child is reunited with their parents and found safe and unharmed. This National Refugee Day, we recognize the parallel between children who are separated from their families at the border and American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Native communities know too well the devastating impact of trauma because of historical and contemporary policies, including the unnecessary removal of Native children from their families and communities, enacted by the U.S. and state governments. The president should recognize and seek to correct the short- and long-term problems that have already been caused by this inhumane policy.

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**About the National Indian Child Welfare Association**

NICWA is a Portland-based national nonprofit organization and the most comprehensive source of information on American Indian child welfare working on behalf of Native children and families. NICWA provides public policy, research, advocacy, information, training, and community development services to a broad national audience, including state child welfare agencies and other organizations, agencies, and professionals interested in the field of Indian child welfare. For more information, visit [www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org).