

Family Separation Public Comments Supporters Toolkit

Overview: The Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was set up to respond to the tragedy of family separation under the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" policy. They are asking people how to end the U.S.'s cruel family separation policies by submitting public comments on their website by JANUARY 25, 2022 at 11:59pm. And we have answers!

Right now we have a chance to create a massive outpouring of support for separated families to show DHS that we are still here, still watching, and won't back down until justice has been served to every last separated family under zero tolerance.

In this toolkit, you'll find:

- Guidance for supporters to end family separation and prevent it from occurring again
- Step by step instruction on how to submit comments
- Sample language to submit to DHS
- Graphics and samples for you can post encouraging friends and family to join our action before the January 25, 11:59 ET deadline
- Next steps to encourage others to submit comments

Whether you have direct experience with family separation or have simply been outraged by the way the U.S. government separated (and continues to separate) families, DHS needs to hear from you! There are a million ways our government can end family separation – but they need to know it's a top priority.

How to Submit Comments:

1. Visit this link to submit your comment.
2. Add comments in English or Spanish
3. Provide your email address
4. Submit as an individual, organization, or remain anonymous

Sample Comments to Submit:

"Thanks for the opportunity to input comments about how to end the cruel separation of families for good. We must never forget the thousands of children still suffering consequences from being separated under Trump's Zero Tolerance policy. The trauma they experienced will be felt for a lifetime. Right now, we need policies that ensure that families seeking safety stay together and are welcomed into the U.S. with the dignity they deserve. We need to end family separation happening now and ensure that the families who suffered the consequences receive the help they need."

To make sure that family separation never happens again in the U.S., we must:

- Find the missing parents, reunite all the families, and ensure they can live in the United States together, free from detention and deportation
- Trump's horrific legacy of family separation can never fully be undone, but we can begin to make amends to the families torn apart and harmed by our government
- Support migrant families harmed and ensure it never happens again by providing protection, support, resources, and a pathway to legal status
- Prevent future family separation by bringing systemic change to our broken immigration system and pursuing accountability for those responsible for this policy
- Take immediate action to support the recovery of more than 5,000 children and babies that were systematically separated from their parents
- Enforce the fact that these families have waited several years and urge our government to make it right
- Provide immediate relief to the young children our government deliberately abused by separating them from their parents

What separated children have experienced is unconscionable. Until the children and families who were separated, traumatized, and abused get justice, this era of family separation will remain a moral stain in our country's history. #FamiliesBelongTogether

These families deserve to heal. It's up to us to do whatever it takes to repair the harm and trauma they now face as a result of OUR policies. Accountability is crucial.

Additional content you could post:

- Personalize your comment – why does this issue matter to you?
- See the end of this document for more first hand testimonies of parents and children that were separated by Zero Tolerance that you could add and tell DHS why this story spoke to you.
- Share your own story. Do you know any impacted families? Do you have a personal connection you'd like to share?

Further ways to take action

- Post on social media
- Ask 5 friends to submit comments
- Send this ask out to your community--your faith group, your neighborhood, your school

Graphics + Sample Copy for Social Media

Once you've submitted your comment, make sure to encourage friends and family to do so as well by posting on social media! Screenshot submitted comments and let people know that #FamiliesBelongTogether

- I just submitted a comment directly to Biden’s Taskforce To Reunify Families to ensure that family separation never happens again and to get justice for families hurt. Join me now! It’s quick, simple, and easy!
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Bod1YJTYo7UhERKUmre45BtxMWYnZgkycoyUmOSb160/edit>
- It took 2 minutes for me to send a clear message that #FamiliesBelongTogether:
 - Visit this link to submit your comment. <https://bit.ly/SubmitCommentNow>
- Take action with me and tell officials that #FamiliesBelongTogether. Submit a comment to end family separation in the U.S. now! <https://bit.ly/SubmitCommentNow>

Stories You Can Share:

- **[Keldy’s story](#):** “I thought that my children were going to be in that place at that moment, but I didn’t see them again.”
- **[Sandra’s story](#):** “They told me to say goodbye to my son, that I wouldn’t see him again,” she said. “And then they took him away.”
- **[Leticia’s story](#):** “When you’re going through this, it feels like someone is taking your heart out.”
- **[Daniel’s story](#):** “Then my nightmare happened. They came to take our children. I witnessed pain, agonizing cries and a deep sense of helplessness.”