



CHESTNUT  
HILL  
COLLEGE

## Response from the President on Family Separation June 21, 2018

As a College founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, our core identity is rooted in just relationships characterized by “unioning love” that calls us to inclusivity and hospitality. “We have an active, inclusive love of every kind of dear neighbor without distinction, from whom we do not separate ourselves.” Therefore, it was with deep sadness and dismay that we witnessed the divisive, immoral policies of the Trump Administration that separated innocent, vulnerable, impressionable children from their parents and, in the future, will deprive victims of domestic abuse and gang violence from seeking asylum in the United States.

Yesterday, the President signed an Executive Order which reverses the policy permitting the separation of children from their parents and placing them in detention centers. However, there are serious concerns about the implications of this Order. One is that the Order fails to provide for the return of children, who are currently in detention centers, to their parents. This is as appalling as separating the children from their parents in the first place.

It is now our responsibility to demand that the President order that these children be returned immediately to their parents. Unless there is a directive to do so, we cannot be certain that those who have been separated will be reunited. Indeed, one government official indicated it is quite likely that some of the children will never be reunited with their parents. It is incumbent upon us all to be as insistent about reuniting families as we were about the immorality and cruelty of their separation. If our elected leadership will not act justly, then we, the citizens of this country, must act boldly, from a place of love and moral courage, to rectify this evil.

At Chestnut Hill College, we stand with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, with the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and with women and men of conscience who voice their opposition to policies that violate the sanctity and unity of the family and the “unalienable rights . . . to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” of all people. While we recognize the need for new, effective immigration policies and laws, we urge all responsible Americans to denounce current practices surrounding immigrants and demand that the Congress accept its responsibility by introducing and passing just and humane legislation on Immigration. Failure to act is not an option.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Jean Vale SSJ".

Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.

## Here are the top 5 ways to take action:

1. Call Members of Congress: [Click here](#) to be connected to your 2 Senators and 1 Representative. Here's an example of what to say: "I'm your constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and [as a person of faith], I urge you to support policies that protect and unite immigrant and refugee families. The administration has no plan to reunite children in detention centers with their parents. I call on you to do everything in your power to address this untenable situation. Congress should increase oversight over the Department of Homeland Security and urge them to end unjust policies. I value the sanctity of the family and believe Congress should act to bring families together, not keep them apart."
2. Attend or Organize a Local Event: [Click here](#) to find events near you or to register your event.
3. Amplify on Social Media: [Click here](#) for a digital media toolkit with sample social media posts and [graphics](#). Use the hashtag #FamiliesBelongTogether.
4. Write Opinion Editorials for Local Media Outlets: [Click here](#) for a template op-ed.
5. Sign the Petition: [Click here](#) to sign the petition and demand that families belong together.

For more resources on how to take action, please [click here](#) for a National Day of Action toolkit.