



For Immediate Release

Today and Every Day: Ayuda Stands in Solidarity with Asylum Seekers

Washington, DC (June 21, 2018) – For the past 45 years, Ayuda has provided legal assistance to thousands of traumatized and victimized women, men and children who have come to the DC region in hopes of safety. We strongly condemn ALL efforts to circumvent or deny well-established legal protections to bona-fide asylum seekers. These cruel policies further traumatize vulnerable mothers, fathers and children.

Ayuda believes the recently enacted (and rescinded) policy of separating children from families and interning them behind chain link fences and desert tents is not only odious but also illegal, and shows a complete disregard to previously established norms, settled law and international human rights conventions. This child separation and internment policy was instituted as a misguided and legally unjustified response to people fleeing violence. The policy was within the President's power to stop even without an executive order and is part of a larger, more sinister effort to dismantle America's refugee protection system by delegitimizing asylum seekers. A few weeks ago, in a legally flawed opinion, Attorney General Jeff Sessions ordered immigration judges to ignore claims of domestic violence no matter how horrible as a ground for asylum seekers.

Ayuda urges all Americans concerned about human rights to remain vigilant, because similarly odious and illegal measures are in store to replace the child separation and internment policy denounced not just by a majority of Americans but also around the world. Ayuda stands with all the men, women and children who look to America as a safe haven.

About Ayuda

Ayuda helps vulnerable low-income immigrants succeed and thrive in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Since our founding in 1973, Ayuda has served more than 100,000 immigrants throughout the region. Ayuda is the only non-profit provider in the area that provides a wide range of immigration and family law assistance, social services, and language access support for all immigrants -- including women, men, and children -- from anywhere in the world. Our specialized services for immigrant children and for immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking are truly unique. This comprehensive and open approach breaks down barriers, helps those in need, and makes our communities stronger.

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