

Senate Democratic Policy and Communications Committee
Hearing entitled: “America Speaks Out:
Stop Trump’s Cruel Treatment of Children at the Border”

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Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the unnecessarily cruel policies that have been implemented at our southern border, and the proven, effective, alternative solutions that have been ignored by the Trump Administration.

The Women’s Refugee Commission is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that works to identify gaps, research solutions, and advocate for change to improve the lives of crisis-affected women and children.¹ The Women’s Refugee Commission is a leading expert on the needs of refugee women and children, and the policies that can protect and empower them.² For over two decades, the Women’s Refugee Commission has monitored immigration detention facilities and migrant children’s facilities operated under what is now the jurisdiction of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), and interviewed facility staff, local service providers, asylum seekers, and migrant children about the policies, practices, and conditions of custody that relate to the ability to access to protection. We have been monitoring border screening policies, including family separation for over 20 years.³ The testimony submitted here is based on my observations, personal experience, and the Women’s Refugee Commission’s expertise and accumulated knowledge (in addition to the specific sources cited).

For centuries, people fleeing persecution and looking for a better life have sought haven in the United States. And for decades, people have been apprehended at our southern border. Many of these are children and families and adults come fleeing war, violence, abuse, or natural disaster, others come to reunite with family members already here, or to seek a better life. They undertake difficult and dangerous journeys, often across numerous international borders,

¹ Women’s Refugee Commission, <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/about>.

² Women’s Refugee Commission, *Forced From Home: The Lost Boys and Girls of Central America*, <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/uncategorized/2057-forced-from-home-the-lost-boys-and-girls-of-central-america-background-and-report>; Unaccompanied Children Women’s Refugee Commission, *Border Surge of Unaccompanied Children: Why They’re Coming and What the Government Should Do* (2014), available at <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/news/press-releases-andstatements/2080-an-administration-made-disaster-the-south-texas-border-surge-of-unaccompanied-alien-minors>

³ Women’s Refugee Commission, *Betraying Family Values; How Immigration Policy at the US Border is Separating Families*, March 2017, <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/rights/gbv/resources/1450-betraying-family-values>

and often children make this journey alone. They have a legal right to seek asylum at our border and the US has in place policies and procedures for screening and assessing their claims.

We hear often in the news and from the Administration, that we are facing a crisis at our southern border that requires increased enforcement efforts and increased detention and custody arrangements. The Administration has implemented various policies designed to deter migrants – particularly migrant children and asylum seekers, from seeking protection in the United States. Unfortunately, these policies are not actually facilitating screening or border security. These policies that focus on deterrence and mistreatment serve only endanger children and others seeking protection. The crisis at our border is one of policy and lack of oversight. Policies that are exposing children in government custody to harm. Policies proposed and implemented by the Trump administration are resulting in inappropriate conditions, excessive length of stays in custody, trauma to children, and non-compliance with basic child welfare standards and requirements for the care and custody of unaccompanied children established through the Flores Settlement Agreement and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). There should be no need for Congress to pass legislation specifically requiring humane treatment at our borders. It is already required by existing law and the Constitution. Yet, here we are, in a situation in which families, children, asylum seekers, our neighbors, are being held in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions for extended periods of time, without adequate food or water, and inadequate medical attention.

While the administration continues to deny inappropriate conditions and treatment, the facts are clear. In addition to reports from human rights monitors and attorneys, inappropriate conditions have been confirmed by the Office of the Inspector General, and Congressional member visits. In the last few months, DHS OIG has issued two management alerts after egregious conditions were discovered at the El Paso⁴ and Rio Grande Valley⁵ CBP stations. They discovered Border Patrol logs from May that indicated that there were approximately 900 people detained in a Border Patrol station designed to hold no more than 125.⁶ The report states that “some of the detainees had been held in standing-room-only conditions for days or weeks,”⁷ and hundreds of people held outside in the parking lot.⁸ Human Rights monitors and Congressional Representatives identified children sleeping on concrete floors for weeks, without soap, toothbrushes or proper nutrition.⁹ Tens of thousands of vulnerable refugees are either waiting in Mexico to come into the U.S. or have been sent back to await their hearings –

⁴ Office of the Inspector General, *Management Alert DHS Needs to Address Dangerous Overcrowding Among Single Adults at El Paso Del Norte Processing Center (Redacted)*, May 2019
<https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2019-05/OIG-19-46-May19.pdf>

⁵ Office of the Inspector General, *Management Alert – DHS Needs to Address Dangerous Overcrowding and Prolonged Detention of Children and Adults in the Rio Grande Valley (Redacted)*, July 2, 2019,
<https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2019-07/OIG-19-51-Jul19.pdf>

⁶ OIG Supra

⁷ Supra

⁸ Supra

⁹ Caitlin Dickerson, “There Is a Stench’: Soiled Clothes and No Baths for Migrant Children at a Texas Center,” *New York Times*, June 21, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/21/us/migrant-children-border-soap.html>

which may be over a year away¹⁰; many of them have nowhere to stay and no ability to obtain work.¹¹

Customs and Border Protection, and the Administration claim that the conditions are a result of an influx of migrants for which they could not be prepared because of lack of funds. They have intermittently claimed that they need more funds for care and custody, more funding for detention beds, and for Congress to amend laws to prevent arrivals. They fail to take into account the intentional policy choices that have led to overcrowding, their failure to take on policy and management decisions that could facilitate humane treatment, and the reality that they have received significant funding increase. Much of what we are seeing at the border has nothing to do with funding. Lack of funding does not justify allegations of sexual assault.¹² Insufficient resources do not explain why a secret CBP Facebook group was discovered that reflects a pervasive culture of cruelty aimed toward immigrants and women.¹³ There is no rationale that excuses the government depriving children of sleep and access to bathrooms, forcing them to sleep on concrete floors, and subjecting them to near-freezing temperatures without adequate clothing.¹⁴

While the numbers of arrivals have increased since the previous year, they are not at an all time high, and the needs are not a surprise that could not have been prepared for. Since 2011 or 2012 the Women's Refugee Commission began documenting a significant change in the demographic of those crossing at the US Mexican border. The number of apprehensions at our southern border today is higher than it has been in recent years, but is not yet at an all-time high. This year has indeed seen a surge in apprehensions, and we are on track to reach a similar number of apprehensions in FY2019 as we had in FY2007, but still fewer than in FY2006.¹⁵ It is notable that the current surge of migrants has happened *in spite* of the series of cruel deterrence policies that the Trump Administration has implemented over the course of the last two and a half years, plainly illustrating how ineffective this attempt at deterrence truly is.

What has been changing – notably since 2011, are the demographics of who is arriving at the southern border of the US. In the early 2000s, most of the migrants were single, Mexican adults, most of whom were not seeking asylum. In 2012 the Women's Refugee Commission documented a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied children and families who

¹⁰ Nomaan Merchant, Associated Press, *US to send asylum seekers back to dangerous part of Mexico*, July 19, 2019, https://www.saratogian.com/news/national/us-to-send-asylum-seekers-back-to-dangerous-part-of/article_91223044-7592-556e-8b12-a0af888755ad.html

¹¹ Women's Refugee Commission, *Chaos, Confusion, and Danger: The Remain in Mexico Program in El Paso*, May 2019, <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/ElPaso-Report.pdf>

¹² <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dhs-probing-sex-abuse-allegation-arizona-migrant-detention-center/>

¹³ <https://www.propublica.org/article/secret-border-patrol-facebook-group-agents-joke-about-migrant-deaths-post-sexist-memes>

¹⁴ <https://www.courthousenews.com/feds-tell-9th-circuit-detained-kids-safe-and-sanitary-without-soap/>

¹⁵ There were 688,375 apprehensions in the first 9 months of FY2019; projecting this number for another 3 months would give us approximately 917,800 apprehensions in FY2019. Compared to 876,703 apprehensions in FY2007, and over a million in FY2006. (<https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ois-apprehensions-fs-2005-2010.pdf>)

were fleeing violence in Central American. By 2019 CBP affirmed that over 50% of apprehensions at the southern border are families or unaccompanied children. This demographic change has been happening slowly over the last decade and is manageable with appropriate facilities and planning; however, DHS has failed to plan accordingly to accommodate this shift. In fact, DHS and the Trump administration have implemented policies that exacerbate the situation at the border – resulting in the abusive and inhumane conditions that became public this summer.

The situation we are seeing of overcrowding and abusive conditions in US border detention facilities is one of management of policy choices, not of resources or funding. Some of the explicit choices that the Trump Administration has made which have exacerbated what would otherwise be a manageable influx of asylum-seekers at our southern border include:

1. CHOOSING to Detain Everyone and REFUSING to release eligible migrants so that they can continue their court or administrative proceedings from the communities where they have support. Under existing law, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – including both ICE and CBP -- has the authority to release migrants, including asylum-seeking families arriving at the border, allowing them to continue their immigration proceedings without being detained. Most asylum seekers and families and children arriving at the border have families within the U.S. who can support them while they await adjudication of their asylum cases.

Border facilities are currently drastically overcrowded. But this is not just because of increased arrivals. It is in large part because CBP and ICE are refusing to release asylum seekers and choosing detention for everyone. There is no actual shortage of detention space. In 2016 ICE had a budget for 34,000 detention beds. The appropriations for immigration detention beds has increased steadily since. 2017 Congressional funded 39,000 detention beds and in 2019 Congress that increased to 45,000 detention beds. Today, ICE has over 52,000 detention beds. Congress appropriated an additional \$30 million for the return of the Family Case Management Program (FCMP) – a program that had successfully managed families released from detention, secured 99% compliance for those in the program and included successful removals of several families before DHS terminated the program in 2017. To date, despite claims of not having sufficient funds for managing arrivals, the administration has not used that funding for its intended purpose.

SOLUTION: Detention is a choice.¹⁶ The administration could and should screen and release asylum seekers and families directly from the border. There is absolutely no reason to detain them for weeks and months in overcrowded substandard facilities that endanger the health and safety of the migrants and government employees. The administration could and should follow the parole guidelines which are based on the international principle for detaining asylum seekers that so long as a person can prove their identity and that they are not a danger to the community, they should be released while pursuing their claims. The administration could and should use parole, bond, and alternatives to detention that are cost effective, efficient and

¹⁶ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/Myth-vs-Fact--Refugees-Seeking-Protection-at-the-US-Southern-Border-WEB.pdf>

work to manage migrants waiting for court hearings. This will save resources, prevent overcrowding, prevent abusive conditions, prevent overextended border patrol staff, and protect due process.

2. CHOOSING to defund and ignore humane, inexpensive, and effective alternatives to detention such as the Family Case Management Program.¹⁷ The administration terminated a Congressionally approved and funded alternatives to detention (ATD) program with proven track records of success. According to the government's own data, participants in this program showed up to immigration court appointments 99% of the time and the program cost a fraction of what detention costs (\$38 per family per day vs \$319 per person per day in a family detention center).

SOLUTION: In place of mass detention, the government should use a long-existing spectrum of alternatives to detention¹⁸, including release, affordable bond, or other programs that support families in their immigration proceedings. These programs are more affordable and just as effective in ensuring rule of law as detention. I will discuss alternatives in more detail below.

3. REFUSING to provide safe and sanitary conditions for detained families. Under existing law¹⁹, detention facilities, including CBP facilities at the border, must meet basic minimum standards of care²⁰ -- including providing things like toothbrushes, soap, and bedding to people in government custody. DHS receives billions of dollars a year in federal funding yet refuses to use that funding to improve conditions.

SOLUTION: Laws and policies that require basic standards in CBP, ICE, and ORR facilities already exist.²¹ DHS must be held accountable for violating these requirements and must stop intentionally creating inhospitable conditions for deterrent purposes. Border and interior facilities should meet basic standards of care, including complying with existing laws and standards for the care and custody of children. This also includes improving basic infrastructure at facilities and employing child welfare professionals and health care professionals.

¹⁷ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/rights/resources/1807-the-family-case-management-program-why-case-management-can-and-must-be-part-of-the-us-approach-to-immigration>

¹⁸ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/The-Real-Alternatives-to-Detention-June-2019-FINAL-v-2.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/WRC-harm-of-family-detention.pdf>

²⁰ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/Backgrounder-Flores-Family-Separation.pdf>

²¹ The Flores Settlement Agreement and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act require basic standards for the care of migrant children in federal custody. <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/Flores-Family-Detention-Backgrounder-LIRS-WRC-KIND.pdf>; <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/rights/resources/1676-women-and-children-seeking-protection-are-not-loopholes>. The CBP National Standards on Transport, Escort, Detention and Search, (TEDS) are agency standards that govern CBP's interaction with detained individuals. <https://www.cbp.gov/document/directives/cbp-national-standards-transport-escort-detention-and-search>

4. CHOOSING to turn asylum-seeking families away at the border through unlawful and cruel policies like metering²² and Remain in Mexico.²³ The administration is unlawfully limiting the number of asylum-seekers allowed to enter the United States each day as well as sending back thousands of asylum-seeking families to wait for their immigration proceedings in Mexico. These policies, known as “metering” and Migrant Protection Protocols or Remain in Mexico, have created a bottleneck at our border and have forced people – including pregnant women and infant children – to wait in dangerous conditions for their right to seek asylum. These policies also create additional burdens on border officials who the administration claims are already overwhelmed.

SOLUTION: End the unlawful policies of Remain in Mexico and metering and allow people to exercise their legal right to seek asylum at the border. Invest in resources at the border to appropriately and legally screen and process asylum-seekers with appropriate and trained personnel. Invest in the immigration court system by hiring more judges and more support for judges, including interpreters and access to attorneys.

4. CONTINUING to separate families.²⁴ Despite federal court injunction and an executive order ending “zero-tolerance,” the administration continues to separate families²⁵, taking children and babies away from their parents and caregivers. There is still no system in place for tracking separated families and no plan for their reunification. This not only causes trauma and jeopardizes asylum cases, it also creates extra burdens for overworked border officials.

SOLUTION: Stop needlessly separating children. Create an information and tracking system that provides ORR with complete information when separations do occur, including separations for more distant family – like siblings, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. ORR needs this information to be able to quickly and safely release children to sponsors. Create systems for reunifying families who are separated either by mistake or unintentionally.

6. PRIORITIZING enforcement over child welfare by attempting to arrest sponsors of unaccompanied children and refusing to hire child welfare professionals at the border. The administration changed the rules²⁶ so that parents and family members who wish to claim their children from the government are now subject to arrest if they are undocumented, causing

²² <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/Myth-vs-Fact--Refugees-Seeking-Protection-at-the-US-Southern-Border-WEB.pdf>

²³ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/Chaos--confusion--and-danger-Remain-in-Mexico.pdf>

²⁴ <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Trump-administration-still-separating-hundreds-of-14029494.php>

²⁵ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/Family-Separation-Complaint-FINAL-PUBLIC-12-11-17.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/Children-as-Bait.pdf>

more children to remain in government custody for longer periods of time. The administration also refuses to invest in child welfare professionals to care for children at the border, despite evidence of a higher proportion of families and children among those arriving to our border over the past several years. As a result, very young traumatized children, are being cared for by border patrol officials untrained in child welfare or even, in some cases, by older children detained with them. This is not only bad for children, it puts additional burdens on overworked border personnel and uses highly trained enforcement officers to do work they are not qualified to do, don't want to do, and don't have time for.

SOLUTION: End the information sharing agreement between the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) which has responsibility for the care and custody of unaccompanied children and ICE and CBP. Employ child welfare professionals to help care for and process children at the border.

7. ENDING programs like the Central American Minors Program that would have allowed children to apply for protection without embarking on a perilous journey to the border. The administration abandoned thousands of children in Central America when it ended a program that allowed certain children with parents in lawful status in the United States to be processed in their home countries and fly here to join their parents. As of August 2017, more than 1,500 children and eligible family members had arrived in the U.S. as refugees and another 1,500 arrived with grants of humanitarian parole. On November 9, 2017, the Trump Administration abruptly ended the program.

SOLUTION: Reinstitute the Central American Minors Program. This program was available to carefully screened children with parents present in the U.S. with lawful immigration status were eligible. It provided in-country processing for vulnerable children fleeing violence and grave danger in their home countries, including murder, kidnapping, rape, extortion, and being targeted for their organs.

8. SLASHING funding²⁷ for programs aimed at addressing endemic violence, poverty, and corruption in Central America, each of which cause people to flee for their safety. One way to ensure that children and families from the Northern triangle no longer feel that they must make the dangerous journey to the U.S. to find safety is to address the root causes of political instability, economic deprivation, unchecked violence, impunity for abusive government security forces, and food insecurity in their home countries. The White House has abandoned support for rule of law, accountability and human rights defenders in the region and plans to

²⁷ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/NGO-Stmt-No-Cuts-to-Northern-Triangle-06-2019.pdf>

end or decrease aid to the region, even though its own administration believes such aid²⁸ helps to stem the flow of migration.

SOLUTION: Invest in a comprehensive approach²⁹ to address the root causes of forced migration with well-targeted assistance focusing on reducing structural poverty, addressing gang and gender-based violence, combating corruption, and strengthening human rights and the rule of law in the Northern Triangle countries of Central America.

9. CHOOSING to DEHUMANIZE migrant children and families and FEARMONGER

Much of what we are seeing at the border is abuse and mistreatment, plain and simple. Children have reported having sleeping mats removed in retaliation for asking for more or better food, have reported sexual assault at the hands of border officials, and being yelled at and told they have no rights. Families are being separated for no valid reason. Migrants in overcrowded cells are being deprived of water and clean clothing. DHS has repeatedly responded to pressure to improve conditions at border stations with statements that the problem is only in the numbers and “loopholes” that incentivize people to come to the US in the first place. The loopholes they are referring to are the laws that create basic standards of care and custody for children. This response implies that they believe improving conditions is a loophole and are intentionally failing to do so. All of these are mistreatments plain and simple. They are immoral and illegal.

SOLUTION: Treat people as human beings with inherent dignity and basic human rights regardless of where they were born or how they arrived here.

Alternatives to Detention and The Family Case Management Program

When someone enters civil immigration proceedings, they should retain their liberty unless there is a demonstrable need to detain them. The sole objective of alternatives to detention is to ensure that the enrolled individuals comply with their civil immigration proceedings. Immigration detention is costly, harmful, and entirely unnecessary for the majority of migrants. Different alternatives include community-based approaches, electric monitoring and/or limited case management support; community-based programs are known to be the most effective.

DHS has a broad range of options other than traditional incarceration, that could and are used to manage the populations of migrants in immigration proceedings. ICE currently contracts with GEO Care LLC to operate a range of conditions of release that rely on some form of electronic monitoring and/or limited case management support. Alternatives to Detention (ATDs) cost a fraction of the cost of incarceration, and when implemented properly are extremely effective.

²⁸ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/us-officials-said-aid-to-el-salvador-helped-slow-migration-now-trump-is-canceling-it/2019/04/01/5a8ca570-540a-11e9-aa83-504f086bf5d6_story.html?utm_term=.10229d99182c

²⁹ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/Protecting-Refugees-Restoring-Order-06-17-19.pdf>

ICE's current ATD program has shown high rates of compliance with immigration check-ins and hearings. The GAO found that 95% of those on "full-service" ATDs (which include case management) appear for their final hearings. Data from Contract Year 2017 showed a 99.27% appearance rate at immigration court hearings and a 91.5% appearance rate at final hearings for those enrolled in its programming that includes some case management.³⁰ Community based alternatives managed by non-profit, non-governmental organizations reported 97% appearance rates in immigration court.³¹

The Family Case Management Program (FCMP)³², implemented by ICE in early 2016, represented the first time in decades that US immigration officials chose to invest in the proven principles of case management to support families legally exercising their right to seek protection in the United States. The program demonstrates that case management works in achieving immigration compliance at a tiny fraction of the fiscal cost of detention and without the human cost and cruelty of separating families or detention in the inappropriate and inadequate conditions long documented by WRC.

A total of 952 families were enrolled in FCMP in Baltimore/Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, and New York. The following numbers demonstrate the program's success:

- 99.3% complied with immigration court hearings.
- 99.4% complied with ICE check-in appointments.
- 15 families were removed – either voluntarily accepting return or complying with an order of removal – and received support with their repatriation.
- The vast majority of families had not completed their immigration case when ICE ended the program.

The success rates refute the administration's claim that alternatives are ineffective and do not achieve compliance. The program successfully supported hundreds of families in finding stability in their communities, supporting them with their immigration requirements, and beginning to prepare them for the outcomes of their case. In recent testimony, Acting Secretary McAleenan has stated that the program was ineffective and that over 100 FCMP families have received in absentia orders after not appearing in court. It is critical to understand that this statement is misleading and inaccurate. At the time that the program ended, ICE's final report on FCMP reflects that a total of 4 families missed court appearances.³³ The numbers reported by the Acting Secretary are therefore cases that occurred AFTER termination of the program. This does not in any way reflect on the failure of the program,

³⁰ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/The-Real-Alternatives-to-Detention-June-2019-FINAL-v-2.pdf>

³¹ Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Community Support Initiative, http://lirs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/LIRS_FamilyPlacementAlternativesFinalReport.pdf

³² <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/rights/resources/1807-the-family-case-management-program-why-case-management-can-and-must-be-part-of-the-us-approach-to-immigration>

³³ ICE Custody Programs, *Family Case Management Close Out Report*, January 2018 (on file)

rather if anything, it indicates that the program was effective in ensuring appearances when in practice.

Implementors at all levels of the program indicated clearly that the program could be scaled up easily and quickly.³⁴ With key additional improvements and expansion, the program could serve many thousands more, save millions of dollars, and increase efficiency. Moreover, it began to shift the larger paradigm of how a country could and should receive those seeking protection at its borders. Just as FCMP was successful for families, case management programming can be effective for single adults as an alternative to detention. A case management support program—like all immigration programs—should recognize its participants not as needing punishment but as human beings with dignity and rights.

The program cost a fraction of what it costs to detain families. ICE also estimated that the cost of FCMP is approximately \$38 per day per family. By contrast, the cost of detaining a family of approximately 2.5 members would be nearly \$800 per day.³⁵ Reinstating FCMP would resolve the atrocious overcrowding conditions, facilitate due process for asylum-seekers, end family separations, and reduce DHS spending considerably.

Nonetheless, ICE chose to terminate the FCMP 1.5 years into the 5 planned years of the program, and has since expanded its immigration detention capacity at unprecedented rates, at enormous costs to US taxpayers, and with little regard to complying with its own inadequate standards for care. The agency did this at the same time the administration pursued an unconscionable policy of family separation that it ended only by positing expanded and prolonged family detention as a solution.⁴⁶ This trend must be reversed. However, based on our findings, it is crucial that any future iteration of case management support incorporates the lessons learned from FCMP's short-lived existence.

Conclusion

We know how to fix what is happening at the southern border, we just need the political will to implement the solutions.

- We must recognize the legal right of any person to pursue asylum, afford each person due process and dignity in that pursuit, protect those that are the most vulnerable, and respect family units. We can do this by investing in screening and assessment systems that respect the individual and ensure due process in order to secure our borders.³⁶
- We need to end MPP and Metering.

³⁴ <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/rights/resources/1807-the-family-case-management-program-why-case-management-can-and-must-be-part-of-the-us-approach-to-immigration>

³⁵ The Fiscal Year 2020 Congressional Justification indicates the FY 18 actual cost of one family detention space was \$319.37.

³⁶ Protecting Refugees and Restoring Order: Real Solutions to the Refugee Crisis; <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/rights/resources/1810-protecting-refugees-and-restoring-order>

- We do not need to detain or mistreat asylum-seekers; smarter and more compassionate alternatives have been repeatedly proven more efficient, effective, and humane.
- For those that are in custody for processing or public safety reasons we must have enforceable standards and accountability. As we have seen from the recent debate over conditions, access to facilities by independent monitors and public transparency are essential.
- We must invest in Central America and help address the root causes of migration – we know that cruel policies will not deter migrants from making the choice to save their families.