CALL TO ACTION — JUNE 17

PROTECT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Stop Trump From Destroying Immigrant Families

This week’s Call To Action has a major focus on immigration, as this is the most pressing concern right now; both in terms of what is happening to thousands of people on our southern border, and also to American values and what we stand for.

These actions come directly from Jen Hoffmann’s Americans of Conscience Checklist. Jen is just a regular American mom who puts out a excellent and regular update for action and we strongly recommend you subscribe to her list right here: https://jenniferhofmann.com/home/weekly-action-checklist-democrats-independents-republicans-conscience/

We oppose inhumane treatment of all people and the government agencies that inflict it. People who immigrate to the US make our country stronger and deserve basic decency and respect.

Note: Our Immigration Game Plan breaks up actions this week--2 per day--Mon-Fri.

For all of these actions call: Your one House rep and two senators (look up), except where otherwise indicated

**Monday Action 1:** Oppose “DACA compromise” immigration bill by June 22.

**Script:** Hi. I’m calling to oppose the Goodlatte immigration bill. It hurts farmworkers, will deport more Dreamers, and keeps children in detention longer. This bill also funds a border wall, and I don’t want my tax dollar to pay for this. Can you assure me that [name] will not support this bill?

**Monday Action 2:** Stand with all people seeking refuge in the US.

**Sign:** Petition from the Anti-Defamation League urging the Senate to vote no on hate-group member Ronald Mortensen for Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. (h/t)

**Tuesday Action 1:** Oppose expansion of ICE detention facilities.

**Script:** Hi. I’m calling about the so-called tent city in Tornillo, Texas built to house 450 immigrant children. I do not want my tax dollars paying for this. I want [name] to stop all further construction of immigrant prison camps by co-sponsoring the DONE Act (S.2849/H.R. 5820). Can I count on this?

**Tuesday Action 2:** End criminalization of immigration.
Script: I'm calling because I want [name] to put an end to the president’s "zero tolerance" policy, which makes border crossing a crime and forces families apart. Asylum-seekers and refugees used to be released while their cases were pending. They are here legally. What is [name] doing to end this policy?

**Wednesday Action 1:** Call for an end to family separation.

**Script:** Hi. I’m calling to oppose the practice of separating families as an immigration deterrent. It is immoral and traumatizing to willfully separate children from their parents, documented or not. I’d like [name] to support Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s Keep Families Together Act (S. 3036).

**Wednesday Action 2:** Stand with a gay man facing a life sentence in Nigeria.

**Script:** Hi. I’m calling about Udoka Nweke, a 29-year-old man who fled anti-LGBTQ violence in Nigeria and sought legal asylum in the US. He has been in an ICE detention facility in California for over 16 months and has attempted suicide due to deteriorating mental health. He faces 14 years in jail or a death sentence if deported to Nigeria. I urge you to advocate for Udoka’s release on bail to receive treatment.

Sign: [Collaborative petition](#) advocating for Udoka’s release to ICE field director.

**Thursday Action 1:** Advocate for oversight in ICE facilities.

**Script:** Hi. I’m calling with concerns about detained people in ICE facilities are not receiving adequate medical care. I would like [name] to demand investigation into reports showing a failure to provide basic care and deaths in detention. What is [name] doing to hold ICE and DHS accountable? (h/t, h/t)

**Thursday Action 2:** Stand with domestic violence survivors seeking asylum.

**Script:** Hi. I’m calling about Jeff Sessions disregarding international human rights law and turning his back on domestic abuse survivors. We must provide refuge to women and children who are violated or threatened with death--especially when local authorities won’t protect them. What is [name] doing to reinstate asylum for victims of domestic violence? (h/t)

**Bonus Action:** [Sign the petition](#) demanding Jeff Sessions reverse his decision to refuse asylum to people fleeing domestic violence. (h/t)

**Friday Action 1:** Prevent deportation of longtime community members.

**Script:** Hi. I’m calling to ask [name] to protect people here in the US on Temporary Protected Status. Specifically, I would like them to co-sponsor the SECURE Act (H.R. 4253/S. 2144) that would defer deportation of these longtime community members. Thank you. (h/t)

**Ask Denny Heck to Step Up and Take a Stand to Stop Border Cruelty**

Seattle Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal has been a persistent voice speaking on behalf of immigrants on the boarder. We recently endorsed Denny Heck for Congress and it is time to tell him to take a stand and speak out against this un-American behavior.

Congresswoman Jayapal issued the following statement after demanding and being given access to the Federal Detention Center in SeaTac, Washington to look at conditions and speak with 174 immigrant women detained inside:

“What I heard from the women today being held at the detention center was heartbreaking. They are there only because of the Trump administration’s cruel new ‘zero tolerance’ policies of family separation. They spoke of fleeing threats of rape, gang violence and political persecution. They spoke of their children who have been killed by gangs and their fear of being raped. The mothers could not stop crying when they spoke about their children – young girls and boys who were taken from them with no chance to say goodbye and no plan for reunification.
“Of the 206 immigrants being held there, 174 are women. I spent almost three hours meeting with the women, almost all of whom are asylum seekers. They come from 16 different countries with the largest numbers from Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Over a third of the women were mothers who had been forcibly separated from their children, who range in age from 1-year-old to teenagers. The vast majority of the mothers have not spoken with their children in weeks and they have no idea where they are. Most have been held in detention for more than two weeks and many for over a month.

“They should not be held in federal prison, but the women I spoke to said SeaTac is the first place they feel they’ve been treated as human beings – thanks to the standards in place at government-owned and operated facilities, rather than the privately contracted facilities of DHS.

“The women talked of being held in Border Patrol facilities that they termed the ‘dog pound,’ because of inhumane fenced cages, and the ‘ice box,’ because temperatures are frigid and detainees are given no blankets or mats. They also spoke of lack of access to food and water, and said they suffered humiliation and verbal abuse from border agents who called them ‘filthy’ and ‘stinky,’ and told them that their ‘families would not exist anymore’ and that they would “never see their children again.’

“Also extremely troubling were the accounts of mass prosecutions, where individuals were processed through the court system in groups of up to 100 at a time with no ability to speak individually to a judge.

“I call on the Trump administration to release all of these individuals immediately, to give them access to attorneys to quickly process their asylum claims, and for them to be immediately reunited with their children. It is outrageous that Department of Homeland Security is violating human rights and our international legal obligations under human rights law to swiftly and humanely process asylum seekers. I will also continue to push to defund ICE, to completely reform the immigration detention system and end mass prosecutions by the Department of Justice, and defund any Department of Homeland Security programs that break up families.

“What I saw today is simply not who, we, as a country should be. This is cruel and inhumane treatment and we cannot allow it to continue on our watch.”

**ACTION:** Call and thank Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal for standing up for the immigrant mothers that have been inhumanly separated from their children. Ask what we can do to help. Seattle office: 1904 3rd Ave., Suite 510 Seattle, WA 98101, Phone: 206-674-0040. Second, call Denny Heck and ask him to stand up and make a statement for the basic human rights of these separated families. Have him tell the Trump administration to reunite these asylum seekers and STOP their zero tolerance policy. 253-572-2281

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**SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY**

**Get Involved In The Mid-term Elections.**

Olympia Indivisible members overwhelmingly voted last November for our chapter to get involved in the mid-term elections and it is time to get to work. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey at https://goo.gl/forms/mpVE8je9g8SiDRgm2 to let us know how you can help win the fall elections—**volunteering some time and skills** between now and the August primaries to help get our endorsed candidates elected.

It’s quick and easy to do. We will NOT share your personal information with any of the campaigns; rather, we will simply inform campaigns that X number of our members expressed willingness to do a given task and Y number of our members have a given skill which they are willing to
make available to the campaign if needed. If the campaign in question needs help, we’ll reach out to you with appropriate contact information, so you can get in touch at your convenience.

Again, here’s the link to the Campaign Participation Survey: https://goo.gl/forms/mpVE8je9g8SiDRgm2

The stakes have never been higher. Our time is NOW. Defending democracy is about getting off the sidelines and showing up as an active citizen volunteer. So please, do your part and participate!

Onwards,

The Olympia Indivisible Steering Committee

COMING SOON

June 22  Friday 6-8:00 pm

Olympia Indivisible Members TGIF Gathering!
OL fellowship abounding! RJ’s Gourmet Grill 318 4th Ave E Olympia

This week’s Call to Action brought to you by Mindy Allen, Joni Brill, Karen Lichtenstein and Tom Dyer. Interested in joining our team? Contact indivisibletom@gmail.com.