

Help Our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters

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our children so we could arrive on safe ground. While here our children have considered committing suicide, made desperate from confinement. The teenagers say that being here, life makes no sense. One of our children said he wanted to break the window to jump out and end this nightmare . . . They grab the chord [sic] that holds their ID cards and tighten it around their necks, saying they want to die if they don't get out. And the smallest children, who are only two years old, cry during the night because they cannot express what they feel .

. . . We left our homes in Central America to escape violence, threats and corruption. We thought this country would help us, but now we are locked up with our children in a place where we feel threatened, including by some of the medical personnel, leaving us with no one to trust.”

The new executive orders on immigration could mean locking up more families and building more detention centers. This may be fantastic news for the private prison stock business and for-profit prison industry but it is terrible news for the thousands of innocent children at risk of inappropriate cruel and unusual punishment.

ment. Now there is another cruel twist: the Department of Homeland Security is considering separating children from their parents at the border. Parents would be detained while their children would be placed in the care of the government or sent to live with relatives in the United States.

It's hard to imagine separating children and families even in familiar surroundings — and certainly not in a new country and in the horrendous situations we have seen these families face. I can still remember the overwhelming panic I felt the day I became separated from my mother at New York's large Abyssinian Baptist Church right before

a worship service began when I was about seven. In the bustling crowd going up into the balcony, I let go of my mother's hand. Happily I was among friendly people who summoned an usher who took me down to the pulpit where the preacher embraced me and asked the congregation if anyone knew this child. My mother who had been frantically looking for me in the balcony stood and said yes and an usher reunited us immediately. But I remember the panic and fear. Nothing is worse than feeling abandoned and separated from a parent in a strange place with strangers. Is this how our nation is going to treat “the least of these” — our little ones? Surely we are better than this!

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund.



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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<div>10</div> <div>Passover Begins at Sundown Encourage a Young Writer Day National Sibling Day</div>	<div>11</div> <div>President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, 1964 (1964)</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Space Shuttle Columbia First Launched Crewed by John Young and Robert Crippen - 1981</div>	<div>13</div> <div>3rd President Thomas Jefferson born, 1743 Lee Bennett Hopkins born, 1938</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Titanic Struck an iceberg shortly before midnight on April 14, then sinking.</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Income Tax Day Artist/Inventor Leonardo Da Vinci born, 1452</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Easter Garth Williams born, 1912 Aviator Wilbur Wright born, 1867</div>
<div>17</div> <div>Sherlock Hemlock's Birthday (Sesame Street character)</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Paul Revere's Famous Ride (1775) Great San Francisco Earthquake In 1906. Pet Owner's Day</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Humorous Day Revolutionary War began (1775)</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Scientists Marie & Pierre Curie isolate radium (1902)</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Kindergarten Day Barbara Park born, 1947</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Earth Day established 1970 Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Home Run Day, Hank Aaron hits his first home run in 1954. William Shakespeare born, 1564</div>
<div>24</div> <div>Library of Congress established (1800) Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Anzac Day (Australia, New Zealand) Hubble Telescope launched, 1990 World Penguin Day</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Administrative Professionals/ Secretaries Day Hug a Friend Day National Pretzel Day</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day Take Our Daughters to Work Day Tell a Story Day</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Arbor Day James Monroe born, 1758 (5th President)</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Zipper Day (patented by Gideon Sundback in 1913)</div>	<div>30</div> <div>National Honesty Day Anniversary Louisiana Purchase completed (1803)</div>