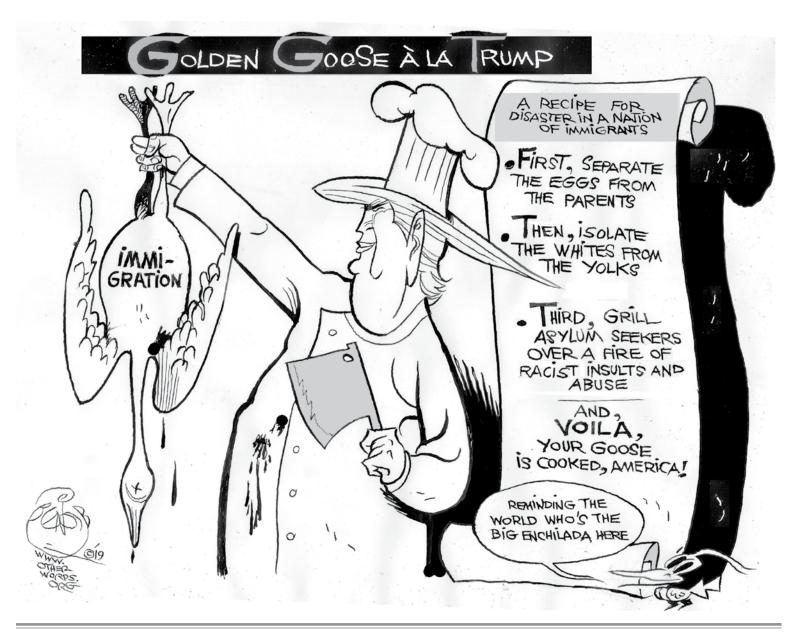
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# Inhumane Treatment is New Level of Shame

## Our moral duty is to protect all children

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

It is inconceivable that these latest headlines come from a civilized nation. "Detained Migrant Children Denied Adequate Food, Water and Sanitation in Texas." "There is a Stench:

No Soap and Overcrowding in Detention Centers for Migrant Children." "The Taliban gave me toothpaste': Former captives migrants."

station, the Associated Press recently reported:

Lawyers warn that kids are taking care of kids, and there's inadequate food, water and sanitation for the 250 infants, children and teens at the Border Patrol station...Fifteen have the flu, and 10 more are quarantined. Three girls told attorneys they were try-

boy, who had wet his pants and just as the Trump administration to this action as the "family op" had no diaper and was wearing is threatening to conduct mass reinforces this administration's legal team encountered him... who is helping interview the chil-

the toddler, not even where he's from or is not speaking...'In my 22 years of doing visits with children

in detention, I have never heard of this level of inhumanity,' said Holly Cooper, who co-directs children now live with the daily University of California, Davis' contrast U.S. treatment of child Immigration Law Clinic and rep- partment of Homeland Security istration's cruelty. And we urge resents detained youth." Many has said that parents detained state and local officials to speak Exposing details of the inhu- children had not had access to a while their children are at day out against this administration's mane conditions and neglect at shower or changed clothes since care or summer camp may be actions and equip their communithe Clint, Texas Border Patrol they had crossed the border days deported while their children are ties with the resources they need or even weeks earlier.

Meanwhile Justice Department attorney Sarah Fabian argued in arations have dire consequences court that the federal government should not have to provide immigrant children with toothbrushes or soap to fulfill its legal obligation to provide them "safe and sanitary" conditions.

The spotlight on the inhumane

ing to take care of [a] 2-year-old treatment at the border comes and Customs Enforcement refer a mucus-smeared shirt when the deportation roundups of immigrant families, which will do Law professor Warren Binford, real and lasting harm to countless children. This action, which dren, said she couldn't the Children's Defense Fund learn anything about has condemned in the strongest terms, is the latest in a long string of actions by this administration who his family is. He meant to tear families apart and sow fear and panic among immigrant communities.

> The hostile, xenophobic rhetoric of the administration is so pervasive that even very young fear of losing a parent. The Deleft behind.

Deportations and family sepfor children's mental health and well-being, and they put enormous strain on communitiesespecially the already over-burdened child welfare system. That the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Immigration the Children's Defense Fund.

callous disregard for the children's lives that will be harmed and the families that will be torn apart by these actions.

Targeting children and families in an effort to create fear among immigrant communities is immoral and runs counter to the values upon which this country was built.

We urge the administration to stop separating children from their parents and to stop imprisoning children in unsafe, inhumane conditions. We call on Congress to refuse to fund the Trump adminto support impacted families. It is our moral duty as a nation to protect and defend all children, regardless of where they come from or the color of their skin.

God, forgive our nation and help us to repent.

Marian Wright Edelman is founder and president emerita of



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