

Actions

Do you have 15 minutes?

Call or write Senator Leahy, Senator Sanders and Representative Welch!

Contact Information

Senator Leahy

- VT 802-863-2525 (preferred)
- DC 202-224-4242
- To write: Leahy.senate.gov and click “Contact” on the top

Senator Sanders

- VT 802-862-0697 (preferred)
- DC 202-224-5141
- To write: Sanders.senate.gov and click “Contact” on the left side

Representative Welch

- VT 888-605-7270 (preferred)
- DC 202-225-4115
- To write: Welch.house.gov and click “Contact” on the top

Suggested Script

“My name is [NAME] and I live in [TOWN]. Thank you for your dedication and persistent work for human rights. According to a May 2020 AIUSA research report, Immigration Customs Enforcement authorities (ICE) gave asylum seeking detained parents an impossible choice: separate from their children, who would be released to sponsors while the parents remained behind in detention indefinitely and faced possible deportation, or stay detained together indefinitely, even during this COVID-19 pandemic.

This is an unconscionable and impossible choice. Detained families seeking safety in this country should be released intact to their relatives or sponsors and not held in detention where we do know that the pandemic is spreading.

I ask that as a Representative/Senator, you do all you can do to convince ICE to release detained asylum-seeking families, *together*. ICE has the legal

authority to release families together, and has historically done so.

The “Family Case Management Program,” which the current administration terminated early in its term, was 99% effective in ensuring that asylum-seeking families appeared for their immigration court proceedings.

Separating families or holding them together indefinitely is reprehensible and NOT an option. ICE must release families together -- as continued detention or separation endangers their health and lives.

I hope to receive a response from you. Thank you.”

Do you have 15-20 more minutes?

Call ICE or write Acting Director Matthew Albence, Deputy Field Office Director Deborah Achim, and Assistant Field Office Director Christopher George!

Contact Information

ICE Acting Director Matthew Albence:

- Call: <https://act.amnestyusa.org/page/60621/data/1> (call between 9 and 10am)
- Send a message: <https://act.amnestyusa.org/page/59764/action/1>

ICE Deputy Field Office Director Achim:

- Call: 210-283-4723
- Send a message: <https://act.amnestyusa.org/page/59764/action/1>

ICE Assistant Field Office Director Christopher George:

- Call: (215) 656-7164
- Write: Christopher George, Assistant Field Office Director ICE/ERO, Philadelphia Field Office, 114 North 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Suggested Script

“Hello, my name is [NAME] and I’m calling from [CITY/STATE] to urge Acting Director Matthew Albence / Deputy Field Office Director Deborah Achim / Assistant Field Office Director Christopher George to free all families *together* from detention and protect

them from COVID-19. Asking parents to separate from their children is not an option and causes unnecessary harm.

People locked up in immigration detention are at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 due to crowding and inadequate medical care. The vast majority came here simply seeking safety from violence and persecution.

Please release families together. Thank you for your time.”

***Please email Carolyn Smiles at csmiles1974@gmail.com if you took actions and how many. Carolyn will then let Amnesty International USA know, as they keep track of numbers of actions taken on the particular human rights actions they support. Thank you!