

Next up, lets hear from Mike, a community member.

It is possible, other countries are trying! Although valid critiques exist around implementation, many countries have advanced efforts to promote child welfare.



Italy also passed legislation granting children **free legal representation** and ensuring their right to the national health and education systems.

Mexico and Ecuador, for example, have taken steps to **legally prohibit migrant child detention**.

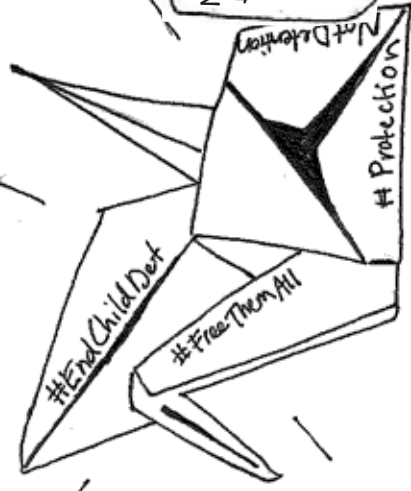
In Sweden, municipalities share responsibility for the housing, health care, education, and overall **well being of youth**. Finland uses group home settings but with fewer than 21 children.



From slavery to Native American boarding schools, **detention has a long history in this country**. We understand the first hand the generational harms detention brings. We also understand the healing power of community. We call for an **end to ALL detention**, including immigrant child detention.



My family was impacted by the **mass incarceration of Japanese families** at American concentration camps during WWII.



What if we redirected resources to **invest in the recommendations of youth and advocates**? It might take time, but we need to start shifting our priorities!



I see what they're saying, but how realistic is it?

It's possible! Right now we spend millions on institutional settings for children, despite their propensity towards harm.

3) **Prioritize freedom of movement and community integration** rather than confinement to institutional settings

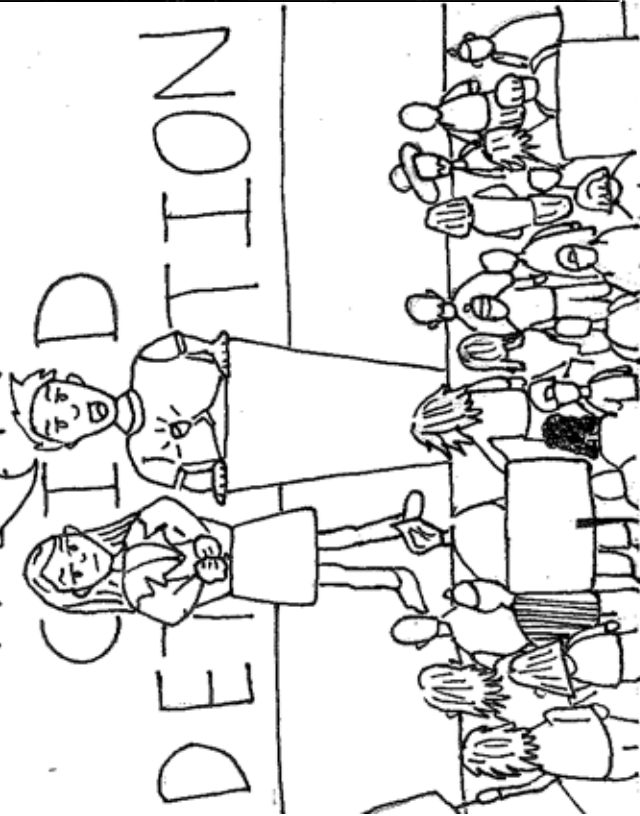
1) Advance swift **reunification with family** in the U.S. and keep family and kinbased units together at the border absent concrete safety concerns.
2) **Phase out** large scale congregate settings.

In recent decades, U.S. policy towards migrant youth has been largely grounded in deterrence and detention. To achieve systemic changes, the U.S. must make an intentional values **shift towards adopting a framework that explicitly centers the best interest of children**. If we do this, we can push changes that:

...Now, lets hear from Rebecca, an advocate with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center.

AT THE RALLY: First up, lets hear from Marcos, a directly impacted person.

I was at a facility 3 months, unable to go anywhere, asking permission for everything, **even to grab water**. Being outside gave us temporary relief, but we didn't always get to go outside. It felt ugly, because we could not leave.



not currently using those models. There's a lot of space to build off those steps. We're going to a rally tomorrow. Why don't you come with us?

OK!

It doesn't have to be this way.

ORR used to operate unlicensed emergency intake facilities, as well as secure sites which **children previously described a jaillike**

Following community

pressure, ORR

did the right thing and is

ORR subcontracts with different groups to maintain over 200 facilities, a network ranging from shelter settings similar to group homes all the way to more restrictive settings. Child welfare experts, media coverage, whistleblowers, and the testimony of directly impacted youth indicates the **risk for abuse and neglect is particularly high** when dealing with a large, institutional setting. Sadly, a significant amount of ORR facilities fit this bill.

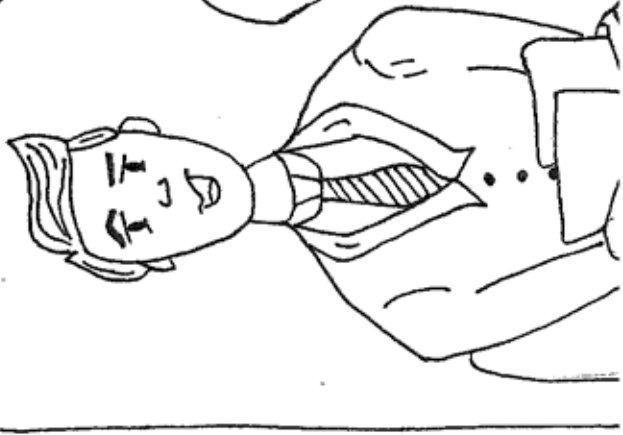
What do you mean?



But why are there so many kids arriving? B, you organize around this, what do you think?

Wow, that's horrible!

Actually, I don't think the problem is children or their parents! In my work, I've seen children migrate for a variety of reasons. A lot are migrating to **reunite with family** in the U.S., some are fleeing difficult situations, and some don't travel alone but they're separated from their caretakers at the border. I think the **real issue is our federal policies and** practices.



...the Office of Refugee Resettlement or ORR oversees custody of **"unaccompanied" migrant children**. This includes children who travel alone, but also children who travel with family members or friends who are not their biological parents or legal guardians. In those situations, youth are still regarded as **unaccompanied**.

The DOJ is alleging Southwest Key, a subcontractor with ORR, has engaged in a pattern or practice of **severe or pervasive sexual harassment** of children in its care. For viewers that might not be aware....