



Name: Arantxa Aragón Frago
School: Colegio Fontanar
Committee: UNICEF III
Delegation: Panama
Topic: Addressing Separation of
Families due to Immigration Policies

Children being separated from their parents and family is common at the border between Mexico and the USA. More than 700 children have still not been reunited with their parents. This is because of a policy that was set by US president Donald Trump, which involves the criminal prosecution of anyone caught crossing the southern border illegally. However this policy was suspended by Trump because of some high violence situations in this problem, but the policy is still active and is causing protest campaigns against it.

In summer 2018, the Government of Panama expressed its "concern" for Central American minors who are being separated from their migrant parents in the southern border of the United States and called for the development of migration policies "that guarantee reunification of families". Due to its sociopolitical stability and high economic growth, Panama has received a lot of migration in recent years, mainly from Cuba and Venezuela. The Panamanian Foreign Ministry mentioned that the country "has always promoted humanitarian management in the face of an increase in migratory movements at a global level, where safe and orderly flows are guaranteed, respecting above all human rights." The Perilous Jungle in Panama has become an easy route for migrants to pass to and as many people are desperate to get to the United States (as previously mentioned, mainly from Cuba and Venezuela), this delegation knows just the kind of situation the US is going through. Research has shown that the Panamanian government cannot send migrants back to their original lands since they cross without a passport or visa, so what Panama does is simply feed them, give them shelter and water and then send them on their way.

Panama's solution is to set up organisations in different countries around Latin America without strict regimes to push these countries to provide more job opportunities to migrants so they do not have the need of going all the way to the US. Of course, the situation is not only positioned in the US but, for example, as this situation is found in Panama, this delegation suggests solving it in the same way as mentioned for the US.

References

Arnold, A. (2018). *What You Can Do Right Now to Help Fight Trump's Family-Separation Policy*.

The Cut. Retrieved from

<https://www.thecut.com/2018/06/how-to-help-fight-family-separation-policy-immigration-trump.html>

El Universal. (2018). *Todo lo que debes saber sobre la separación de familias migrantes en EU*.

Retrieved from

<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/mundo/todo-lo-que-debes-saber-sobre-la-separacion-de-familias-migrantes-en-eu>

Greenfield, P. (2018). *Family separation: hundreds of migrant children still not reunited with families in US*. The Guardian. Retrieved from

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jul/26/trump-administration-family-separations-children-reunited>

ONU Migración. (n.d.). *Panama*. Retrieved from <https://www.iom.int/countries/panama>

Panama Today. (2019). *Panama calls for migration policies that guarantee family reunification*.

Retrieved from

<https://www.panamatoday.com/panama/panama-calls-migration-policies-guarantee-family-reunification-7128>

The Heritage Foundation. (n.d.). *Panama Economy: Population, GDP, Inflation, Business, Trade,*

FDI, Corruption. Retrieved from <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/panama>

Wall Street Journal. (2015). [Youtube] *Panama's Perilous Jungle Is a New Route for Migrants*.

Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKXZEw2ZOck>

Wikipedia. (n.d.). *Trump administration family separation policy*. Retrieved from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trump_administration_family_separation_policy