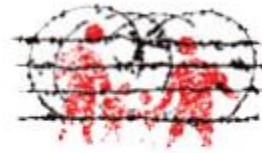


# News from the CCR



Updates from the **Canadian Council for Refugees**

June 2018

We all feel disturbed as much as you to see and hear in the news this week the images and the sounds of crying children separated from their parents at the border of the United States.

It reminds us that children during their course of migration are particularly vulnerable and they should never be in detention.

Sadly, too often children are detained, even in Canada – a country known for its commitment to human rights and children's rights.

Under Canada's immigration law, children are supposed to be detained only as a "last resort". But they are regularly detained in Canada. Even though the federal government has committed to reducing the detention of children, detention of children continues. Children are detained on grounds of identity or flight risk, or they are "guests" in detention accompanying a detained parent. Research shows that even short-term detention has negative consequences on children's well-being and development. Detention is no place for a child!



[Click here for a full child's view of detention in Canada](#)

Like you, we believe that immigration policy must always be guided by the best interests of children affected.

Join us and add your voice by supporting the five principles identified by the CCR as fundamental to ending the immigration detention of children.

The detention of children and keeping families together are at the heart of the CCR's concerns. Your support makes a real difference and it is important for us to keep you updated on what the CCR has done and is working on to ensure that no infant or child is denied the rights of love and care of their parents and is deprived of contact with the rest of the world.

### **The US is not safe for all refugees: Call for an end to the Safe Third Country Agreement**

The detention of children is not the only recent regression in US policy towards refugees and vulnerable migrants. In early June, the [US Attorney General announced measures](#) that close the door on survivors of domestic violence and targets of gang violence seeking refugee protection. These developments further support the CCR's call to the Canadian government to suspend the 2004 [Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States](#). Under this Agreement, people forced to flee are required to request refugee protection in the first safe country they arrive in, effectively closing the door on most seeking protection at the US-Canada border. With the support from people like you and other refugee advocates, we continue to raise our voices in the media, with government officials and through court action. Canada must now demonstrate its leadership and withdraw from the [Safe Third Country Agreement](#).

### **CCR International Refugee Rights Conference**

For 40 years, the CCR has been connecting refugee advocates. In June 2018, the CCR held an International Refugee Rights Conference in Toronto where more than 650 participants - human rights defenders, academics, NGO representatives, youth, and refugees across Canada and from 36 countries - came together to learn, share, network, and promote refugee and vulnerable migrant rights protection. In 3 days, more than 50 workshops and sessions presented a wide range of issues facing refugees and other vulnerable migrants including immigration detention and children's rights.

\*Source: CBSA statistics <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/security-securite/detent/qstat-2017-2018-eng.html>

Your generosity makes our work possible. Thank you!