

STOP TAKING OUR CHILDREN

6.3M

children live with at least
one undocumented
parent.

Source: [Migration Policy Institute](#)

145K

immigrant children
separated from a parent.

Source: [Truthout](#)

6,300

children detained in ICE
custody.

Source: [CBS News](#)

232

children forced into the foster
system due to ICE in 2025.*

Source: [Adoption & Foster Care Analysis & Reporting System](#)

There is growing understanding that we cannot abolish ICE without abolishing the police. Less understood is that we cannot achieve either without abolishing the family policing system, also known as the child “welfare” or foster “care” system. In a family separation web, the family policing system works with the criminal legal and immigration systems to take our children.

The family separation web poses a unique threat to the over 5 MILLION BLACK IMMIGRANTS who are disproportionately targeted by cops, ICE, and the family police.

THROWN INTO THE FOSTER SYSTEM

Trump is deporting about four times as many mothers of U.S. citizen children per day as Biden did. And when a parent is detained by ICE or the police, their children can be thrown into the violence-ridden foster system.

“If they take me, who will protect my children?”

- JEAN-PIERROT PIERRE, A HAITIAN FATHER OF TWO

Source: [Haitian Times](#)

“Unaccompanied” children are routinely thrown into the foster system too. Even when parents are located, nearby, and able to care for them, the state may refuse to give parents their kids back. New York families report that agencies “kept moving the goalposts” for reunification, all while children dealt with dirty clothes, confinement, and inadequate meals. Children were told that if they complained, their parents would be deported.

Now, the administration is doubling down on a debunked claim that 300,000 unaccompanied children went “missing” under the Biden administration and ended up in the hands of adults who are abusing them. They are using this lie to justify re-detaining at least 300 children who were released to vetted sponsors—often their own parents—and throwing them into prison-like shelters.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement is forcing caregivers to restart the entire sponsorship application process, made harder still by the administration's increasingly restrictive screening requirements designed to exclude undocumented people. ICE is then exploiting the process further, using sponsorship interviews as bait to arrest and detain at least 100 parents and caregivers who have shown up trying to bring their children home.

*NOTE: This is likely a massive undercount. Estimates are compiled using state-level data that is reported unreliably and inconsistently.

UNDER FAMILY POLICING SURVEILLANCE

As immigrant parents navigate the constant threat of ICE, Black and Brown immigrant parents are also targeted by the family policing system. Under mandated reporting laws, doctors, teachers, social workers, and others are required to report suspicions of child maltreatment to the family policing system. These reports tend to treat symptoms of poverty as parenting failures, rather than what they are: the predictable result of government policies that restrict immigrant parents from accessing already limited social supports. In some cases, parents are already fighting a family policing case when they are detained, making it nearly impossible to comply with family reunification plans.

76%

of Black immigrants who are deported, are deported because of contact with the police or criminal legal system.

Source: [Black Alliance for Just Immigration](#)

287(g) agreements have increased

957%

under the Trump administration.

Source: [Department of Homeland Security](#)

In counties with 287(g) agreements in 2011, children in the foster system were

29%

more likely to have a detained or deported parent.**

Source: [Race Forward](#)

**No equivalent data exists today—but since 287(g) agreements have expanded dramatically under the second Trump administration, there is reason to believe these consequences have worsened.

CAUGHT IN THE FAMILY SEPARATION WEB

Many do not realize that a report to the family police can set off a chain of events that ends in deportation. The family policing system routinely shares information with police. Meanwhile, local police are being deputized as ICE agents through 287(g) agreements and other arrangements, giving them authority to question people about their immigration status during arrests and to hold people in local jails before handing them over to ICE. More collusion between local police and ICE necessarily means that more children will be separated from their parents, and families will face more barriers to reunification once kids are in the foster system.

THREATENED WITH THE FAMILY DEATH PENALTY

Once a child is in the foster system for fifteen months, a federal law called the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requires and pays states to begin proceedings to make family separation permanent through the termination of parental rights. We call this the family death penalty, because it severs every legal tie between a parent and child, and “frees” the child to be adopted by someone else. In these cruel proceedings, a parent who has been detained or deported can be framed as having “abandoned” their child.

All the while, the state is actively recruiting strangers to become foster placements and to adopt their children—severing them from their families, cultures, and communities in service of a white supremacist vision of who is allowed to parent.

**THEY ARE TAKING OUR CHILDREN,
BUT WE WON'T STOP FIGHTING TO
GET THEM BACK.**

**CHECK OUT OUR FULL ISSUE BRIEF TO LEARN MORE:
[BIT.LY/STOP-TAKING-OUR-CHILDREN](https://bit.ly/stop-taking-our-children)**

