



Break the cycle - our country needs a course correction now
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There's a saying in Oklahoma "This ain't our first rodeo". And unfortunately, that has relevance today. What we are seeing on immigration today isn't new, it's part of the pattern of marginalization of people of color in this country. Put the ugly pieces of the puzzle together:

- Taking the land of Native peoples and using Indian Boarding Schools to separate families
- Enslavement of Africans and separating families at slave auctions,
- Japanese Internment Camps
- And now, a constant barrage and marginalization of migrants seeking a refuge here.

Our immigration policies are another example of the white supremacy that is deeply woven into the very fabric our nation. The intentional characterization of migrants as criminals and shady characters, dehumanizes people and makes our neighbors easy targets and objects of scorn and fear. And while the policies are not new, what is new is the immediate visual and stark reality that invades our lives at every turn.

The whole country didn't actually SEE the land being stolen from Native peoples or witness the horrible pain of slave auctions. But we are living witnesses to what is happening to migrants today; we can't claim we don't know. Pictures of those who are seeking refuge here are in our living rooms, on our phones and computer screens every day. We are haunted by the images of crying children being taken from the arms of their parents and of cages packed with people in spaces we can't imagine living.

In Kansas and Oklahoma, we see how deportations tear families and communities apart in the heartland and suddenly the questions about immigration look different. And we know there are still children that have not been reunited with their parents.

As faith leaders today we speak with one voice. We need increased funding that builds families not walls, policies and funding that affirm the dignity and worth of every person and that keeps families together.

Members of Congress, you have a chance to break the cycle. We don't have to be a country that will have yet another a museum that tells the story of these years where people will look back and shake their heads in disbelief. We can see what's happening and there can be a course correction NOW. Because we know better; we know where this path will lead us as a country. We have seen it before; we are living that history now; let's not repeat it, again. YOU can do something different to break the pattern. As you make decisions and cast your votes, as people of faith, we ask that you remember one simple verse. Do unto others; do unto others as you have them do unto you.