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AALL Calls on Trump Administration to End Separation of Families at the U.S. Border

CHICAGO – June 20, 2018 — The [American Association of Law Libraries](http://www.aallnet.org) (AALL) today issued the following statement from its president, Greg Lambert, calling on the Trump Administration to immediately reverse its policy regarding the separation of children from their migrant parents seeking refugee or asylum status in the United States:

“As an organization dedicated to ensuring access to justice for all, the American Association of Law Libraries is outraged by the Trump Administration’s horrific policy of separating infants and children from their parents. Funneling these children into an Orwellian system of internment camps is unconscionable,” said Lambert. “There is no due process or opportunity for these parents to appeal the Department of Justice’s decision to tear their families apart. In several reported cases, these children have become lost in the DOJ’s forced relocation system. We have not seen a policy like this in our country since people of Japanese descent, including American citizens, were forced into internment camps during World War II. However, even then, the government recognized the need to keep families together,” said Lambert.

“The majority of these asylum seekers are fleeing unimaginable violence in their native countries. I recognize U.S. law must be respected. And there is a process in place to address these asylum seekers that is not only humane and consistent with America’s long-time values of equal justice for all, but is also a more economically sound method than the creation of vast children’s camps spread across our southern border,” said Lambert.

While serving the law library community, a core tenet of AALL’s mission is to help ensure the public has timely access to legal information to make the soundest legal arguments and decisions. This includes providing access to those seeking information that might aid in addressing their legal status or asylum requests while in the United States.

“This administration continues to take actions regarding immigrants and asylum seekers that go well beyond long-standing legal precedent and limit access to justice for those most in need of guidance and representation. AALL is committed to issues of diversity, community and collaboration. We are, as a legal organization, repulsed by this policy of separating families at the border. This practice is antithetical to AALL’s mission and sense of justice, and we call on the entire legal community to highlight this gross human rights violation and demand immediate change.”

About AALL

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906 on the belief that people—lawyers, judges, students, and the public—need timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, its more than 4,100 members are problem solvers of the highest order. AALL fosters the profession by offering its members knowledge, leadership, and community that make the whole legal system stronger. For more information, visit www.aallnet.org.