



Oral Statement at the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 6: UPR Outcomes of United States of America

Date: 15 March, 2021

Delivered by: Mr. Kevin Cawley

Madame President,

The Report of the Working Group for the UPR of USA included recommendations on migration from 21 UN member states. Ten of these states cited family separation issues, the result of the “zero tolerance” policy of the U.S. from April to June 2018.

The replies presented by the U.S. in response to recommendations, indicate support or support in part for 21 recommendations regarding immigration, border detention, children and family separation.

We commend the U.S. for this positive response, noting that the new Administration took office only in January 2021 and on 26 January rescinded the “zero tolerance” policy for improper entry.

Sadly, parents of 628 migrant children separated at the border in 2018 still have not been found, according to court filings in December 2020. We commend the Biden Administration for issuing on 3 February 2021, the “Executive Order on the Establishment of the Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families.”

Alarming, more than 3,200 migrant children are currently held in Border Patrol facilities with nearly half held beyond a three-day legal limit, as the Biden administration struggles to respond to the sharp recent increase in the number of unaccompanied minors crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

Edmund Rice International calls on the U.S. Administration to move swiftly to remedy these violations of long-standing Human Rights obligations. These children must be treated with dignity and given meaningful access to education, while families are located.

Thank you.