ICN calls for speedy reunification of child migrants and their families

Geneva, Switzerland; 4 July 2018 - The International Council of Nurses has called for the speedy reunification with their families of migrant children detained in the USA, stressing the role of nurses in caring for migrants and vulnerable populations.

ICN’s member in the USA, the American Nurses Association, has made several public statements calling for reunification and the establishment of “compassionate immigration policies that reflect the humanity and human rights of all people.”

“The International Council of Nurses whole-heartedly supports the ANA’s statements and actions to ensure the reunification of the migrant children with their families,” said Annette Kennedy, ICN President. “Nurses play a significant role in the care of vulnerable populations and in protecting abused, neglected and refugee children, particularly those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.”

In its 2017 position statement on the Health of migrants, refugees and displaced persons (MRDPs), ICN stresses that MRDPs are one of the most vulnerable population groups in the world and face many health and healthcare-related challenges. ICN believes that, in line with the ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses, nursing care delivered to MRDPs must always be “unrestricted by considerations of age, colour, creed, culture, disability or illness, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, politics, race or social status”.

The health of migrants needs - both physical and mental - are complex and, “There is no other profession that attends to people’s needs in their most vulnerable periods of time as


Nurses advocate for equity and social justice and support the UN Declaration of Human Rights. ICN believes that health is a human right. We work to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, quality healthcare, particularly the vulnerable and the poor.

ICN supports the ANA’s call for reunification of separated children and families without delay; the establishment of compassionate immigration policies that reflect the humanity and human rights of all people; and the provision of physical, mental, and spiritual care to those children and families who have been forcibly separated at US borders.

Note for Editors
The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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