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#### **STATEMENT ON NEW FAMILY SEPARATION POLICIES**

Last Friday, the [Washington Post](#) reported that the White House is considering several new family detention and separation policies. Despite the public backlash against family separation, the Administration continues to seek separation of children from their parents in order to deter immigration. One of the policies under consideration is called “binary choice”- after families are detained together for 20 days, parents must either stay in detention with their children indefinitely until their immigration case is closed (which can take years), or send their child to a government shelter and wait until someone else seeks custody of them.

“This is just a ploy,” said Archi Pyati, Chief of Policy. “It creates a false choice between indefinite family detention and family separation, both of which are harmful to families, including the survivors of violence who are among those applying for asylum.”

Separation of children from their families causes both short and long-term physical and psychological harm, and under no circumstances should this measure be seen as an appropriate avenue to deter immigration.

We cannot forsake our values as a nation to justify arbitrary ends, especially when the means are inhumane and violate human rights. We urge the President and the Administration to consider the ramifications of such policies, which compromise our nation’s commitment to justice for all.

#### **About the Tahirih Justice Center**

The Tahirih Justice Center is the largest national direct service and policy advocacy organization focused on assisting immigrant women and girls fleeing violence. Tahirih will continue to monitor policy shifts that impact women and girls fleeing violence and advocate for the United States to honor its legal obligations to protect those fleeing human rights abuses.

*Tahirih Justice Center is a national non-profit that protects courageous immigrant women and girls who refuse to be victims of violence through free legal and social services, public policy advocacy, and training and education. Visit [www.tahirih.org](http://www.tahirih.org) for more information.*