

Cristina Jiménez: Welcome everyone to the Resist and Win National Organizing Call. This is Cristina Jiménez, and I'm the co-founder and executive director of United We Dream, the largest immigrant youth-led network in the country. And I'm really joyful and humble to be your host tonight. I'm really excited to be with every single one of you on this call, our speakers and all of you that have called in and spend your Sunday night with us to hear updates from around the country on how we're fighting back against Trump's racist and ICE anti-immigrant agenda, and to also find out what's next and how we can take action and get involved.

Cristina Jiménez: I wanna thank the amazing partners who have joined making this call possible tonight. Thanks to MoveOn; thanks to many of the other organizations including Center for Popular Democracy, People's Action, Daily Kos, The Working Family's Party, and the organizations that are representing and speaking today, United We Dream, ACLU, and The National Domestic Workers Alliance. Much gratitude to all of you for joining us.

Cristina Jiménez: Over the last year, many of you have taken part in this Sunday national organizing calls. Last year, they were called Ready to Resist, and now, we are Ready to Resist and Win. In the spirit of those calls, which by the way, you broke a Guinness World Record for the largest conference call ever by hosting more than 60,000 people, we are continuing to stand together bringing in new people. So, hello and welcome to everyone joining for the first time. And do the work to shape the direction of our country towards justice, compassion, acceptance, and a place where everyone can feel safe and thrive in our communities.

Cristina Jiménez: Over the last year, the Trump Administration has made all undocumented immigrants in this country a threat to National Security, and therefore, a priority for deportation. People like my own parents and millions of people in our immigrant communities. He's also unleashed ICE agents and CBP agents to terrorize our immigrant communities via racial profiling practices, targeting people at their homes, at their schools, while they're driving. Also leading raids in the workplace, like you probably recently saw in Tennessee and Ohio where hundreds of workers were arrested and separated from their children, leaving devastation and broken families behind.

Cristina Jiménez: CBP agents have even killed people, like Claudia, an immigrant young woman from Guatemala, that was killed by Border Patrol at the border just a few weeks ago. As you can see, Trump deportation force, ICE, and CBP is completely out of control. And unfortunately, it hasn't stopped there. This administration has also terminated DACA, which protects close to one million young people from deportation, people like my own brother Jonathan, and also CPS programs that have protected thousands of families who have been living in this country for many, many years. The entire strategy of this administration is to make more documented people undocumented and to lead, in fact, mass deportation as he campaigned for during the presidential campaign.

Cristina Jiménez: And on May 7, just recently, this administration enacted a zero tolerance policy, making the separation of children from their mothers and their fathers the law of the land, especially at the border. And I'm sure that you know, and you've seen the reports produced by the ACLU, and the media reports where hundreds and hundreds of children have been separated from their parents, many families impacted, parents not knowing where their kids are, and just over the weekend with the latest news, that a father took away his own life as he was dealing with the panic and the fear that his two year old was taken away from him. Thousands of children and families have been impacted by all of these policies, and this is what brings us to tonight's call.

Cristina Jiménez: Our first speaker will be Senator Jeff Merkley from Oregon, who has spoken out against ICE and CBP agents, and recently, he went to Texas himself to investigate a child detention camp. He was turned away, barred from entry, and the police were called. He'll speak about why he went to Texas, and we should expect and demand from our members of Congress.

Cristina Jiménez: After Senator Merkley, we'll hear from Lorella Praeli with the ACLU. Lorella leads the ACLU's work on immigration. She'll speak about what has changed in the last few weeks since Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced his cruel and inhumane zero tolerance policy, why are the policies in place now, and how they have been further weaponized against our communities, and particularly immigrant communities.

Cristina Jiménez: Third, we'll hear from Leah C., one of the amazing youth leaders from Florida with the National Domestic Workers Alliance, and the We Belong Together Campaign, who has led a recent action as part of the National Day of Action against Trump's family separation policy.

Cristina Jiménez: And then last, we'll hear from MoveOn's Michelle Slaughter, who will give you everything that you need to know about how to turn this moment into political action, and how you can get involved with MoveOn's Resist and Win electoral program, and apply before the deadline on June 15.

Cristina Jiménez: And just as a quick reminder, people are joining us via all forms, on the phone, webcast, and also on Facebook Live. If you are on the phone, please press *3 to ask a question, and one of our great screeners will work with you to make sure that we get to your question, and we will have sections for questions throughout the agenda for tonight. You can also go to MoveOn.org/ResistandWinCall to listen to this call live via your computer or your mobile device, and watch this live presentation there as well.

Cristina Jiménez: So, with all of that, now let's get started with our speakers. First, we will hear from Senator Jeff Merkley, who is a Senator from Oregon, who has been deeply engaged in this work for many, many years, and serving in the Senate since 2009. Senator Merkley has been speaking out against this administration's racist and anti-immigrant policies, and tonight we're really grateful for himself leading

the charge and investigating what's happening, and demanding for answers.
Senator Merkley?

Jeff Merkley: Thank you so much, Cristina, and thank you United We Dream and MoveOn for mobilizing America about this horrific policy. Jeff Sessions and President Trump call it zero tolerance policy, but let's call it what it is. This is the zero humanity policy. The inscription on the Statue of Liberty, which has welcomed generation after generation to our shores says, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free", but under this policy, there is a new sign on the border of the United States. And it's if you come here, fleeing persecution, we will treat you like a criminal and rip your children out of your arms. And who knows if you'll ever see them again?

Jeff Merkley: That sign, that policy is absolutely evil. There is no moral code in the universe that says you can hurt children in order to influence their parents not to seek asylum from persecution. There's certainly no religious tradition that would honor or justify that policy. So, I couldn't really believe that it was happening. So, last Sunday, a week ago, I went down to the border to find out. I went to a border patrol station, it's called a processing center, and stood in the room where there's a big warehouse with big cages built out of fencing material, and in these cages in that room, this is where children have been separated from their parents. It happens right there.

Jeff Merkley: And it isn't ... by the way, the fact that these cages are made of fencing material, that's not the issue. That is really the same physical setup that's been there for years. What's different is separating the kids from their parents. That's the horrific policy. And so, here was one cell or a cage that had a whole host of young boys in it, and they were lining up by height, from the smallest to the tallest in order to go get food. And I look at the front of the line, and I see this little boy, knee high to a grasshopper, maybe coming up to my waist, maybe four to five years old, and then a line of children slightly older up through 16 and 17 years old, and I thought about the fact that within the last 24 hours before I stood on that spot, and maybe within the last few hours, those children had been separated from their parents.

Jeff Merkley: We know how distressing this is for parents, but Marco Munoz suicide, enormous distressed after his children were ripped away from him is an example of that infliction of despair for the parents. But, this is an absolute trauma for the children. When they come here, fleeing persecution, and who knows what happened to their families back home, they go through obstacles to arrive, they finally to the safety of the U.S. and the traditions of the U.S. to speak, to treat respectfully those who are fleeing persecution, and discover that they're going to be in prison, their children are going to be torn away. These children have nothing to hold onto but the safety of their parents and it's ripped away. That strategy, it has to end, and that's why we have to publicize it, and I really appreciate United We Dream, other organizations, MoveOn, for publicizing this.

Jeff Merkley: I then went up the road to Brownsville to a detention center where the children are sent, and I wanted to get inside and see what was going on. I was told there were hundreds of children, and maybe a thousand. There's been this huge influx or a huge growth in the children that are being cared for, I guess is kinda the word, those who are in the care of the U.S. government. It's increased 21% over the month from the end of April to the end of May, so over the month of May, a 1900 child increase. Some of those may have been unaccompanied minors but many of them were the children torn out of their parents' arms.

Jeff Merkley: So, here is the thing. This has to end. I mean, there are many other egregious aspects to our immigration policy. But this one goes a step further than anything else we've seen in terms of its cruelty and moral ... being morally bankrupt. I wasn't able to get into that detention center where those hundreds, or perhaps 1,000 children were. I don't know exactly what's going on there that they wanna keep it so secret. I do know that the Office of Refugee Resettlement is determined to make it difficult for legislators to get inside to see the impact of this huge surge of children detainees, to be able to talk to those children, hear their stories, to understand what they're going through, and to therefore, help share their plight with the American people.

Jeff Merkley: Let us return to the vision of America as a place that understands and cares about those fleeing persecution abroad, and let's force the administration to shut down this policy. Thank you.

Cristina Jiménez: Thank you so much, Senator Merkley, for your courageous work and for continuing to lead the resistance on this. We have time for one question before you take off, Senator, but let's take a quick question from [Sharon Kuran 00:13:49].

Sharon Kuran: Yes, I just don't understand ... my father was an immigrant from Russia. He's no longer on this earth, but he came in as an immigrant with his family on a ship. They were on a ship for months and months on end. And when they got to this country, they had to go through Ellis Island and on the other side, when they got out of Ellis Island, there was people there to support him and his family to come into America. There was no such thing as illegal immigrants. Immigrants were immigrants, no matter where they came from. And I don't understand ... this is the lowest of low for the Trump Administration, to rip children away from their parents. Makes absolutely no sense at all. We don't have facilities in this country or the where with all to take care of somebody else's children, nor do the children even speak English. So, I mean, they're in a foreign country, we're treating them like they're terrible people. Children. Not their parents, the children, and probably most of the parents are beside themselves like Mr. Munoz.

Sharon Kuran: I don't wanna see anybody else kill themselves. I would like somebody to put Mr. Trump behind bars, and put some kind of tape over his mouth. I mean, this is awful. And to get his Attorney General, who's in charge of all the law in this country ... we are a lawful country ... to have people at the borders taking

children away from their parents is terrible. This is Unamerican and it needs to cease and desist today. That's all I have to say.

Cristina Jiménez: Thanks so much, Sharon. Did you have a question, Sharon, that you wanted to share with Senator Merkley?

Sharon Kuran: No, I just wanted to know why Trump made this stupid policy up and made Mr. Sessions enact it? It doesn't make any sense. Why is the Attorney General-

Cristina Jiménez: Exactly. Thanks so much, Sharon, for that question. Senator Merkley, would you take on this question? Why is the Attorney General doing this?

Jeff Merkley: Yes, so this is part of a strategy of dehumanizing immigrants, and making immigrants a November election issue. You saw President Trump in the State of the Union in January. He talked about immigrants using the symbols of gang, MS-13. He then has referred to immigrants as animals. He is trying to basically use the plight of immigrants to rally Republican turnout. This is really, really ... I mean I hesitate to use the word evil, but it's evil. This is absolutely horrific policy of abusing children for political gain and abusing children to try to deter people from fleeing persecution. It's ... so that's why, to answer the question, that's why they're doing it. It's crass, heartless, immoral politics. And folks, with that, I have to run but thank you again so much for highlighting this issue. And everyone on the call, please call your House and Senate members, make the case to them that this policy of inflicting harm in children has to end immediately. Thank you.

Cristina Jiménez: Thanks so much, Senator Merkley, and thanks for moving quickly also into action, which is why we're going to do our first live poll now to see how many of you took action last week. As you all know, many of the organizations here, and others, joined the Families Belong Together Emergency Action on June 1. And on that day, more than 30 cities, people in more than 30 cities took action on this emergency action to demand that the Trump Administration stop separating our families. In a minute, we'll hear from Lorella, from the ACLU. And before that, I wanna take a moment for us to talk about action that you can take, so we're going to do a quick live poll for everyone on the phone so we can see how many of us are taking action, but also report out all of the people that are committing to take action and to reach out to our members of Congress. So press one now if you will commit to calling your members of Congress tomorrow. You can call them to 866-888-5744, and you can say that you stand against this inhumane policy and are demanding that they reduce funding for ICE and Border Patrol now. And press two now if you will sign on and also share the petition that we have going on right now with [MoveOn.org/separated](https://www.moveon.org/separated), and demand to end this cruel policy enacted by the Trump Administration.

Cristina Jiménez: So, press one now if you're ready to make those calls and make sure that your members of Congress know that you absolutely demand ICE and CBP to be defunded; and press number two if you would join us in the MoveOn petition that has already circulated to end this Trump policy of separating families.

Cristina Jiménez: Whoa, that is almost 2000 calls folks. Keep it going. Thank you so much for all of you who took action with us in more than 30 cities on June 1, and for all of you who have committed to make almost 2000 calls, and I know that that number will be going up throughout our call.

Cristina Jiménez: All right. So, we're going to keep moving in the agenda. And now, we've heard about what's going on, we've heard about how we are confronting this crisis created by the Trump Administration. So, Lorella who's the Deputy National Political Director of the ACLU is going to share with us what's happening right now. Lorella was actually just at the border in Brownsville, so she's gonna share with us what she observed, what's going on, how is it different from other policies, and what all of this means. Lorella?

Lorella Praeli: Thank you, Cristina. Hi everyone. My name is Lorella. I'm so excited to be on the phone with you today to talk about what you can do, and just to share a little bit more background about what's been happening. I just got back to D.C. from spending the week at the border. I was in Brownsville and McAllen. And I truly have no adequate words to describe what I've seen and what is happening. But, I have this immense feeling that we cannot and we must not stop from fighting this. That we can not despair in this moment, even though it seems so bleak, and we must move into action.

Lorella Praeli: So, there are some additional things that I wanna add here just to put a little bit more color to what is happening at the border. You know, I spent some time going to the port of entry and looking at the bridge where there are families lining up to seek asylum. And I found mothers ... I found a mother with her child who said she had been waiting for 17 days. If you can just picture that with the kind of heat in the summer through Texas, and think about just standing outside waiting for 17 days, day and night, sleeping on the ground with your child. Most of the women there have spent about five to seven days because Border Patrol, Customs and Border Patrol, they're not moving people quickly enough to process them in. So that's one problem.

Lorella Praeli: The other problem is that people are being funneled through our court system for prosecution of the misdemeanor of unlawful entry, which is for coming here and what they would call violating the law. And the court has gone from seeing 20 to 30 people a day to now prosecuting approximately 150 people per day, and that is just in McAllen in one federal court. So, I just wanted to share that with you from my experience and observation there.

Lorella Praeli: Now, I wanna get into the policy and just share that the administration has thought this through deeply. There may be other things that they've done like other decisions that they've taken into immigration context, but this is very well thought out and this is their plan. And it comes from their philosophy of trying to deter. So, what they claim they are doing, and we've heard them say and articulate themselves, is that they're establishing what is called a zero tolerance policy at the border that seeks to prosecute every unlawful entry into the United States, which means that parents who bring their children are then

separated because the parent is prosecuted. And then the child is put through a system via a different kind of federal agency, and that causes the prosecution.

Lorella Praeli: And so, what is happening, I have no qualms saying this, is both deeply evil and cruel. They're using the child to coerce the parent and to send the message to other people who may have legitimate asylum claims from choosing to take that risk and to take that journey and come to the United States and seek asylum, which is their right. And, we heard this from the Chief of Staff, the President's Chief of Staff John Kelly himself, his deeply disturbing words, you know, when asked whether this was cruel to separate mothers from their children, he said, "I wouldn't put it that way. The children are put in foster care or whatever." Now these are his words, not mine. And what we're seeing today is that once the child goes into the system, it's very difficult for the parent to track down where his kid is, where his child is. They give the parent a phone number but if the parent is in detention, how does the child call back to connect with his or her mom? And so, this is just the very raw truth of what is happening in Texas and in the Southwest border states.

Lorella Praeli: So, this is a new policy, and I wanna make sure that I'm very clear about that because we've heard the administration, the Trump Administration, try to spin this. We're hearing some Republicans try to spin this and say, "This is just the law of the land." But it is not. This is a new policy that the Trump Administration made real earlier this year, and it's leading to massive numbers of children being taken from their parents. We're now in the thousands of kids who are being ripped apart from their parents. And, you know, I'm happy to go into these in greater details when we go into a Q&A, but I wanna also share with you that the ACLU is fighting in the courts, is joining with United We Dream, MoveOn, and other incredible partners to mobilize people in the streets and is also actively working on the Hill along with our partners.

Lorella Praeli: Earlier this week on June 6, we heard from the federal judge who ruled that our challenge, the Trump Administration's practice of forcibly separating asylum seeking parents and young children can move forward because the administration was trying to block us from challenging them, and had asked for a motion to dismiss the case that we had brought before the federal judge. In fact, the judge himself said, "Such conduct, if true, as it is assumed to be on the present motion, is brutal, offensive, and it fails to comport with traditional notions of fair play and decency." And so this is just go give you a sense of what the policy is, what the new policy being administered by the Trump Administration is, and what is happening on the ground on Texas, and how we are all collectively standing up and fighting back.

Lorella Praeli: Thank you, Cristina.

Cristina Jiménez: Thank you so much, Lorella. That was a really helpful breakdown of what's happening and again, we remember we will have a Q&A session in a little bit in the agenda.

Cristina Jiménez: Before we get there, we will hear now from grassroots activists and organizers who have been taking action with us, and who will share with us how they're responding in this moment. So, we're really excited to have Leah, who's a youth leader based in Florida, from We Belong Together and the National Domestic Workers Alliance. Leah, take it away.

Leah C.: Hello and thank you. My name is Leah, and what we did on Saturday and I visited a detention center in Florida. What we did is, I wrote a speech asking Trump to stop separating families, stop sending kids away from their parents because it's evil and I know that I love my family and I'm pretty sure they do too. I care about this because it is important to me that us children have an opportunity to spend time with our family and grow up with them and make memories. And, I know they love their family as much as I do. So that is why I'm asking Trump to stop separating families. And ... sorry.

Leah C.: On June 14, if you people wanna take action again ... please join us taking action again on the National Day of Action on June 14 to stop separating families. Thank you.

Cristina Jiménez: Thanks so much, Leah, for joining us and for sharing that with us and your courageous, courageous work. We are now going to go into our second poll for the call, and wanted to also share a quick update on the last poll. More than 2000 calls of folks are committed to making phone calls to members of Congress, ensure that these policies stop, to make sure that they follow the lead of Senator Merkley in demanding answers and going to the border. Going to deportation centers.

Cristina Jiménez: So, we are going to go into poll number two. Families ... the campaign of Families Belong Together that Leah is part of was part of organizing the National Day of Action on June 1, and is also organizing actions across the country on June 14. So, our second poll is to know if you will join us in taking action together on June 14, and you will be able to find a nearby location wherever you are at www.familiesbelong.org. Familiesbelong.org. So, press one if you will join us on this National Day of Action on June 14 and join Leah and millions of others in taking action.

Cristina Jiménez: And again, familiesbelong.org is the place where you can sign up to join an action, and to also find actions that are taking place near you. Great. So, now we're gonna move onto the final speaker of the night before we open our conversation for Q&A.

Cristina Jiménez: We've talked a lot about the ways in which we have generated impact together. Calling our members of Congress, lobbying, taking to the streets, joining with our community, refusing to be silent in the face in all these awful and vicious attacks, and now we're gonna hear from Michelle Slaughter from MoveOn, who will talk to us about MoveOn's election program, Resist and Win, and tell us all about it, and how you can get involved. Michelle?

Michelle Slaughter: Thank you, Cristina. And thank you to everyone who has joined us on tonight's call. As a member of MoveOn's field and training team, I'm super excited to share how you can get involved in our Resist and Win electoral program this year. So, MoveOn is committed to ending GOP control of the House, supporting state and local progressive champions, and building power to win the future. Tonight, I'm gonna focus on our top line goal of ending GOP control of the House. It is our mission in 2018 to end GOP control of the House. That victory would actually mean some pretty incredible things.

Michelle Slaughter: It would mean an end to Congressional attacks on our communities, something that is desperately needed right now especially considering these issues with immigration. It would also mean investigations and accountability for Trump and Company, something that is also desperately needed. It would mean a national platform for champions, like Representative Jayapal, or Lauren Underwood, who is running in Illinois 14th Congressional District to lay out progressive vision, and create a democracy where everyone can thrive.

Michelle Slaughter: And lastly, it would also mean potential passage of the DREAM Act and more. But, to end GOP control of the House, we are expanding the map. We've already endorsed 13 progressive championships, and we will endorse a total of 100 candidates in 100 Congressional districts across the country. Getting to victory will take all of us, especially you on this call.

Michelle Slaughter: And so, how we win this year is with you. To end GOP control of the House and resist Trump's toxic agenda, we are investing in and empowering our MoveOn members to organize locally because we need every single person taking action if we want to see real, lasting change happen. So, we are looking for progressive leaders, new and seasoned folks. So yes, we are looking for you. So during this Resist and Win leader program, our members will have the opportunity to get trained on movement building, the essentials of campaign strategy, and grassroots organizing from experts across the country. And will put what they learn into action by hosting a series of grassroots voter contact events that we're calling Volunteer Wave. These Volunteer Waves help our endorsed candidates win, and more importantly, demonstrate the lasting and independent progressive power of our MoveOn members.

Michelle Slaughter: For the last four months, we've successfully mobilized our members in support of Conor Lamb in Pennsylvania, and Stacey Abrams in Georgia, which has been really exciting to be a part of that. But we won't stop on election day. We definitely believe that we are building power for the future. So, after election day, we'll switch gears and immediately begin to hold our newly elected representatives accountable, and we'll also work together to debrief our learnings in terms of what happens next.

Michelle Slaughter: So, this is what's important for you on the call. We have a goal of training and mobilizing 200 Resist and Win leaders across the country, who live in or near our 100 target Congressional districts. We also have a goal of 1600 Volunteer

Wave events happening across the country that will help our candidates win, while bringing us closer to the progressive future where everyone can thrive.

Michelle Slaughter: So, I want you to become a Resist and Win leader today. This is how we're gonna be able to win in November, and beyond. So, you can actually apply for our Resist and Win leader program by going to MoveOn.org/ResistandWin, and the deadline is this Friday, June 15, and I will say this again: we cannot win without everyone on this call doing their part. This is one way you can do that across the country.

Michelle Slaughter: So, we're gonna take our final poll. So, if you will apply to be a part of our Resist and Win program by this Friday, you can press one now.

Michelle Slaughter: And I will hand it back over to Cristina.

Cristina Jiménez: Thanks so much, Michelle. So, I'm really grateful for all of the speakers and for all of those commitments that we have gotten from all of you. More than 4000 calls committed now to members of Congress to make sure that we stop this family separation policy and we defund ICE and Border Patrol. And we have about 1200 people that have committed, from you in this call, to take action with us in response to Leah's Call to Action on June 14. So this is really exciting, really grateful for you all, as we have learned and also demonstrated that we're ready to take action together.

Cristina Jiménez: So, now we're gonna open up for a few minutes for questions. You had a question, this is the time. Remember to hit *3 to ask any questions for folks that are on the phones, *3 so you can ask any questions. And we're gonna get started with Michelle.

Michelle: Hello? Hi, this is Michelle.

Cristina Jiménez: Go right ahead.

Michelle: Hi. So yes, my question is what can we do as teachers and students? I teach at Penn State. I know a lot of my students care about this and there's other people around in the high school system and even younger kids. I feel like kids being active is really powerful right now as well, and I just wonder what we can do to mobilize our campuses to stop this horrendous policy? Hello?

Cristina Jiménez: Thanks so much, Michelle, for your question. Lorella, you wanna get started? And I can chime in as well.

Lorella Praeli: Sure. I mean I think there is so much to do. Everything from calling your member of Congress, asking them to defund ICE and CBP, to making donations to the groups along the Southwest border. You know, there are groups collecting donations so that they can buy water and take food to the people who are waiting at ports of entry, to demanding that your member of Congress

go to the border. One of the key goals for us is to continue to raise the visibility and outrage on what is happening so it doesn't become the new norm. We cannot let this policy set in and just normalize. So that when the anger and the attention goes away, everyone moves on with their lives because truly there are children as young as 18 months old who are representing themselves right now. There are children who are 53 weeks old who are not with their parents.

Lorella Praeli: I read an article today from the Boston Globe where they were reporting that in order to take the child away, one of the things that they tell parents is that they are gonna go and bathe the child, and then the mom realizes that was just a lie to take the child from her. And so, the kind of tactics that they are implementing are horrendous. So, call your member. Request a meeting. Demand that your member go down to the border. Demand that your member speak on the Senate Floor or on the House Floor about this issue. You, yourself, turn out to an action. Organize a rally. Organize letters. Collect money so that you can donate to the organizations doing the work, especially those in Arizona, in Texas, in California and in New Mexico. And then continue to make sure that you're sharing everything that you're reading. If every person that's on this call reached out to three people in their network and asked them to take action with them on June 14, when there is another National Day of Action, we're taking over the streets.

Lorella Praeli: So, there's so much that you can do. Cristina, feel free to add more.

Cristina Jiménez: Thanks so much, Lorella. I think that that was very comprehensive. I will just remind folks of June 14, National Day of Action. You can check out the places that you can join for actions at familiesbelong.org. Familiesbelong.org. And I would also say that all of our community institutions like colleges and universities and schools and our educators and students could play such a huge role right now in creating safe spaces for communities to active information, to understand what's happening right now, to get information about the right ... there's this crisis happening at the border and also we know that ICE agents are going to people's homes and people's neighborhoods and communities.

Cristina Jiménez: So, all of our institutions have to take action in this moment to be clear, safe spaces for immigrant communities, and to provide resources as well as being places of taking action as Lorella laid out. So, thanks so much for that question.

Cristina Jiménez: We have another question on our list here, and I'm gonna take a question from Lori Asper from Texas. Lori?

Lori Asper: ... And actually, I still wish I lived in Texas because I'd like to go down to the border but, I live in Connecticut now. So, my question is how do people that ... I mean, I'm gonna go on and apply for what the other guest just told us about, but what else can we do? There's gotta be ... I mean, I'm gonna call my Senator tomorrow, but, you know I live in a blue state so, they're already on it. Every time I get in touch with them, they're like, "We're doing everything we can." You know?

Lorella Praeli: Mm-hmm (affirmative). This is Lorella. I'm also in Connecticut. I'm in Guilford-

Lori Asper: Okay.

Lorella Praeli: So, hello, always-

Lori Asper: Hi.

Lorella Praeli: Nice to have other Connecticut folks involved.

Lori Asper: Yep.

Lorella Praeli: You know, I think you can get very specific with your Senator, right? So, you can ask Senator Blumenthal, "Can you organize a visit to the border?"

Lori Asper: Yes, and I'm going to do that. I think that is just a genius idea, and he should be there.

Lorella Praeli: Yeah, and I don't think action and organizing needs to only happen at the border, so organize events in your own community. Bring out more people. Join the march on the 14th. The other really important piece is continuing to get other voices out there, and so, you know, it might be ... the Trump Administration is trying to send out actual fake news and they're trying to reframe what they're actually doing to try to say that it's acceptable and that it's the law, and so if you know what's happening, now that you have a bunch of tools and more information, you can write a letter to the editor. You can think about, you know, is there a psychologist I know who can write about the trauma that these kids might be going through? Is there a faith leader in my community who I can get to write to his members or write a letter himself so that we get more coverage on the newspaper?

Lorella Praeli: So, there, really, I think ... maybe we can work with MoveOn. I know we've been thinking for a while to develop a toolkit of all the different things people can do-

Lori Asper: Yeah. That's an awesome idea.

Lorella Praeli: And maybe if all the folks on this call, we can make sure that we do that and then send it out to folks as a followup. But truly, there is so much you can do.

Lori Asper: Yes, there is. You're exactly right. And not knowing exactly what, but if you had a toolbox to go to, I mean I would do something every day if I could go back to that and say, "Oh, I never thought about that." You know? Everyone that I know wants to do something every day about this and other issues that are pressing, but of course is the forefront, and it should be. So, thank you.

Lorella Praeli: Thank you.

Cristina Jiménez: Thanks so much, Lori, and thanks so much Lorella for that. And just to remind everyone that there are many of our communities are holding immigrants in a local jail or also in detention camps across the country. And you can find those online as well, and these are all places that we should be galvanizing our communities to take action around. So, I wanna pass it off to Michelle, who is gonna-

Lorella Praeli: Cristina? Real quick-

Cristina Jiménez: Yes?

Lorella Praeli: Cristina, just before we ... this is Lorella ... just before we wrap up, I wanna make sure I put something in everyone's radar. It is possible that the ACLU prevails in court on this case that we've brought before the court where we're calling on the Trump Administration to end its family separation policy and to reunite families. I wanna make sure that everyone on this call is ready to also fight for family detention, for the expansion of family detention. So it is possible that one of the responses from the Administration may be to ramp up facilities and jails to hours families together. And I wanna make sure that if that happens, we are ready to continue to escalate our anger and our protests and our action because we cannot settle for that either. That is not a good solution. There are more humane programs. And I wanna make sure that we're channeling our anger and continuing to shed light on what is happening. Thank you, CJ.

Cristina Jiménez: Thank you for reminding us of that, Lorella. So, I'm gonna do a quick recap of all of the ways in which we can take action, and some of the clear actions that we've discussed in today's call.

Cristina Jiménez: Number one: make sure that you're calling your member of Congress. Members of Congress have a lot of power in these situations. On a couple of different fronts, calling for oversight on these agencies that are completely out of control and have been unleashed and has zero accountability at the moment by the Trump Administration. So, calling our members of Congress and demanding that the family separation policy stops; that ICE and Border Patrol agents don't continue to get more of our taxpaying dollars to terrorize immigrant communities; and what we have seen is this tendency and this desire from the Trump Administration every time that we're talking about our budget and our resources, demanding more money for these agents. So we gotta make sure that our members of Congress are fiercely against providing additional resources and actually demanding that these out of control agencies that are terrorizing our communities are defunded.

Cristina Jiménez: As Lorella also reminded us, members of Congress can do a lot more than public statements; a lot more than tweets. They can also demand to go into these detention camps, to continue to call for investigations, and to stand with us publicly and galvanize more and more of our communities. So, make sure that you're calling your members of Congress. Every single day they need to hear from us. They need to hear the outrage and that we're standing against all of

these evil and inhumane agendas and policies. And you can call your members of Congress to 866-888-5744. 866-888-5744.

Cristina Jiménez: Don't forget about Leah. Leah who share with us her involvement, her story, and how she's been fighting as a youth leader in Florida with the We Belong Together campaign to keep families together. She made a call for us to join on a National Day of Action on June 14, so don't forget that you can check out the actions at familiesbelong.org. Familiesbelong.org.

Cristina Jiménez: And lastly, we know that we need to continue to fight this administration in all of these evil attacks by hitting the streets and calling our members of Congress. But we also have to get our power back and win, and that's ... wanna remind you of Michelle's description of the Resist and Win electoral program that has been hosted on MoveOn. And do not miss out on applying for the program before the deadline on June 15.

Cristina Jiménez: Those are all of the ways in which you can plug in and continue to fight back with us and also work together and take action to take our power back and protect our communities and our families that are being separated at the moment. I wanna give a huge shout out to all of you who worked together over the last few days to make this call happen on this Sunday evening. MoveOn, ACLU, United We Dream, NDWA, Working Families Party, The Center for Popular Democracy, Daily Kos, and others. Thank you, thank you so much.

Cristina Jiménez: To all of you, a huge shout out to all of you for joining us tonight on this Sunday evening to find out how you can get engaged, to understand what's happening, and to also making commitments. Commitments to take action today with us, and thanks so much for all of those amazing commitments. More than 2000 calls, more than 1000 people who have already committed to joining in action on June the 14th on this National Day of Action. So thanks so much everyone. We're really grateful for all of your hard work, and we look forward to continue to hitting the streets and also hitting the calls and taking action with all of you.

Cristina Jiménez: Thanks so much, and have a good night.