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The Silent Family Separation Crisis in the United States: How Low-Income Families are being Shattered by State Agencies Needlessly Removing Their Children

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The Human Rights Defense Project (HRDP) is an international human rights organization created by public defense trial attorneys. Its aim is to put a stop to unlawfully separating families by bringing a greater understanding of the injustices related to the family policing system, hoping to challenge the public narrative of the “child welfare system” in the United States being solely benevolent and always acting in the best interest of children, which is rare. These cases are often unconstitutional and contrary to international human rights standards set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

HRDP is focused on more sustainable and breakthrough solutions to understand trauma holistically in order to help parents and children. They often need only genuine resources and support to stay out of the family policing system, which almost exclusively targets low-income and non-white families.

Termination of parental rights happens far too often, with almost no public oversight since the cases are held in private court proceedings. Children who should not be adopted often are – or are separated from a primary caretaker for years, which leads to debilitating and disastrous long-term outcomes.