



## Children's Literature Assembly (CLA) of NCTE Statement on Zero-Tolerance Immigration Practices

(July 2, 2018)

The Children's Literature Assembly of NCTE stands with our colleagues in the [American Association of Pediatrics](#), [American Education Research Association \(AERA\)](#), [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#), [American Psychological Association](#), [children's book industry](#), [Early Childhood Education Assembly \(ECEA\) of NCTE](#), [Foundation for Child Development](#), [Latinx Caucus of NCTE/CCCC](#), [REFORMA](#), and many others in denouncing the current administration's policies that have led to the separation of refugee children and youth from their parents and their delayed reunification.

We express concern with calls for the deportation of individuals without due process, and we call for more just and humane immigration policies and practices that will keep immigrant families together and end the agony of children currently separated from their parents.

We stand in solidarity with advocacy efforts to reunify children with their parents and to support families in need of legal representation.

As educators, we are particularly concerned with the potential long-term impact of this traumatic treatment on children and youth. Like others, we believe it is incumbent on us to be advocates and provide care for these children. As CLA members with a commitment to literature in children's academic and personal lives, we believe that one way to help meet the needs of these children is by sharing Spanish, indigenous, and bilingual children's literature with them. Books have the potential to provide comfort, inspiration, hope, and joy to children—all that is so needed in their lives at this time. Books depicting their lives and languages have the potential to mirror the beauty of the life they know and hope for as they encounter spaces that tell them otherwise. We believe a gift of books is one small, concrete means of helping the children and youth cope through this difficult time.

We thank author and illustrator Rafael López for sharing the following initiatives for getting Spanish, indigenous, and bilingual books into the hands of detained children and youth.

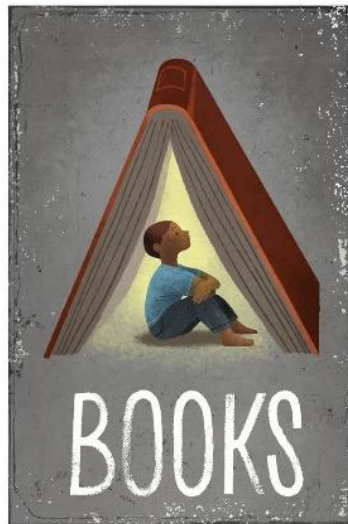
1. [The REFORMA Children in Crisis project](#) delivers books in Spanish to children and youth in detention centers, shelters, law offices and group homes around the country where immigrant youth are sent after being processed. Donations at their website are preferred so they can avoid the cost of shipping the books to the places they serve. They purchase NEW books in Spanish, bilingual, and indigenous languages for toddlers to youth in their late teens and skillfully match the content to the language, social and emotional needs of the reader.

2. [KIND \(Kids in Need of Defense\)](#) gives books to unaccompanied children as they go into court proceedings for deportation. These kids and teens read Spanish, bilingual, and indigenous languages but books in English are also welcome.

You can send NEW books to the two locations listed below that serve immigrant children and youth in those areas. Again, books in Spanish, indigenous languages, and bilingual books are desired.

Alejandra Tovar, Paralegal and/or  
American Hernandez, Social  
Services Coordinator  
KIND (Kids in Need of Defense)  
UC Merced Fresno Center  
550 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 240, Rm. 10  
Fresno, CA 93710

Katie Annand and/or  
Alejandra Tovar  
KIND (Kids in Need of Defense)  
200 Pine Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104



[Artwork by Rafael López]