



OCCV - Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices &lt;admin@occv.org&gt;

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**June 2019 | I am a child, too.**


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Thu, Jun 27, 2019 at 11:12 AM

OCCV is committed to seeing Biblical Justice in Oregon for our vulnerable neighbors.



## June 2019 Newsletter



**“I need comfort, too. I am bigger than they are, but I am a child, too.”**

**This is the cry of a 14 year old migrant child, separated from her parents and being held in a Texas detention camp, trying to care for infants – infants – who have also been separated from their parents at the border. All of them children, all lacking basics such as showers, diapers, toothbrushes, adequate food, blankets to protect them as they sleep on a cold concrete floor.**



### ADVOCATE

We are working to be a consistent Christian voice on public policy issues in Oregon.

[Learn More](#)

### EDUCATE

We work to make it easier for you to learn the legislative process and to let your voice be heard in Salem when it matters most.

[Learn More](#)

### MOTIVATE

We are busy building the Kingdom of God here in Oregon, and we welcome you to join us in this construction project!

[Learn More](#)

The ongoing abuse of children in the custody of our government is not a partisan issue. **It is an evil to be called out and opposed with all our might.** It is an abomination in the eyes of God who "... secures justice for widows and orphans, and loves the alien who lives among you, giving him food and clothing. You too must love the alien..." (Deut. 10:18-20)

We encourage you to learn more about this urgent issue and ways you can support those who are speaking for justice and righteousness, by checking out the websites listed below. Because as Ken White, a former Federal Prosecutor said recently, "This stain on America's soul will not wash out with an election cycle. It will only change when Americans demand that the government treats the least of us as both the law and our values require –and firmly maintain that demand no matter how we feel about the party in power."

Please check out these websites for more information on how you can make a difference:

<https://www.raicestexas.org/>

<https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/>

Recent newsletter from Sojourners with more resources/actions:

Dear ,

Lawyers visiting a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) station in Clint, Texas, last week revealed children surviving in appalling conditions — and we know the crisis extends far beyond one Texas facility. We need you to take action and email Acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan to demand an end to children being kept in these inhumane conditions.

[Email Acting Secretary McAleenan](#)

Through interviews with the children being kept at the facility, lawyers discovered:

- There were about 350 children in a facility with capacity for 104. A warehouse without windows had been installed in the back to hold another 500 children.
- Some children were forced to sleep on concrete floors.
- Children were hungry and had not been given adequate access to food.
- Children were filthy, covered in visible amounts of dirt on their skin and clothes, and had not been given access to a shower for weeks.
- Older children were stepping in to care for younger children because no guard or officer would do it. Some of the youngest children were alone on the floor.

[Take Action](#)

Such neglect and mistreatment of a child anywhere else would be criminal. Public pressure and intervention by Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-Texas) caused CBP to move some of the children out of the station in Clint

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yesterday. But systemic neglect and abuse of children is widespread throughout processing stations near the southern border and detention facilities in the interior.

As people of faith we are appalled by this systemic abuse and neglect being perpetrated by our government. We are asking you to take action now, to send the message that all children are made in the image of God and anything that assaults their dignity should be fought. Children are entitled to basic human rights and protections no matter where they come from or where they live. Please send an email right now to the Department of Homeland Security telling them to end the inhumane treatment of children and begin investing in these long-term solutions that will keep families together and thriving:

1. Stop separating children from their families and reclassifying them as unaccompanied minors.
2. Uphold the Flores Settlement Agreement, which requires compliance with child welfare laws and legally prevents the government from keeping children in detention for lengthy periods of time.
3. See that all children under their custody enjoy safe and sanitary conditions that would be afforded to any child outside detention.

Tell the Department of Homeland Security that a child is a child no matter their background. They deserve to be treated with dignity, love, and care.

[Email Acting Secretary McAleenan](#)

Thank you for taking action,

Sandy Ovalle

Coordinadora de Campañas de Inmigración  
Immigration Campaign Coordinator

## [Legislative Process in Oregon and How OCCV Advocates On Your Behalf](#)



Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices (OCCV) advocates for public policies and laws in Oregon that we believe reflect God's desire for a government structure that promotes the well-being of all, and particularly the marginalized in our society.

But how is OCCV doing this?

Let's take a quick civics lesson to learn how. [Click to read more](#)

# Help Us Shine on Social Media and Stay Connected!



Like us & Follow us on our Social Media pages to stay updated on legislative news, advocacy events to get involved, words of encouragement, and great resources to download and use coming in the future. Then like and share our posts to help spread the word!

We can be found:

- [On Facebook](#)
- [On LinkedIn](#)
- [On Twitter](#)

Thank you!

OCCV Staff



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