



From darkness, light.

June 19, 2018

**In response to family separation at the U.S. border:**

Holocaust Museum Houston is accountable to our community to be a leader and to demonstrate moral courage. History sometimes compels us to stare into a dark abyss; for the past offers many lessons in human behavior. The cruelty that began during the Holocaust with dehumanization eventually led to the murderous regime that annihilated millions. It included a myriad of episodes of families being separated; literally ripped from each other's loving arms, in deportations and arrivals in concentration camps.

As children at America's borders are being forcibly removed from their families and primary caretakers, we are seeing such dark history being made today. In this 21st Century, with all that is known about child development, we cannot allow this inhumane, cruel policy to continue. History teaches us that intolerance, unchecked, leads to persecution and violence.

In our nation's most diverse city, Holocaust Museum Houston's initiatives to work with and for the communities of our city and the relevance of the Museum's mission, vision and public values in the face of systemic dehumanization of the "other" are significant reasons that we call upon our community; when circumstances so closely reflect the past, to speak, to act, to stand for the values America can exemplify.

We stand in solidarity with all vulnerable groups. We take Elie Wiesel's words to heart: "I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation." Please let your elected representatives know your concern regarding this separation policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin Warren".

Benjamin Warren  
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly J. Zúñiga".

Kelly J. Zúñiga, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer