



Separating children from their parents

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“Tension is growing in Washington over the Trump Administration's zero tolerance policy,” notes a CBS News report, “letting border security agents separate the children of immigrants trying to enter the U.S. illegally.”

Why are we using children as pawns in an effort to score political points?

There has been widespread criticism – and rightly so – of the decision to separate children from their parents as a “strategy” for discouraging illegal immigration to the United States. Regardless of where you stand on this contentious issue, this is not a civilized way to proceed.

But aren't we a nation of laws?

Well, kind of. Given the Administration's track record and propensity for engaging in legal gymnastics on a whole range of questionable activities, a more accurate characterization might be we are a nation of laws when we choose to be, depending on the question at hand and what direction the wind happens to be blowing at any given moment.

Are there no limits to what can be considered fair game when it comes to the art of the deal?

These are innocent human beings we are talking about; they had no choice in the decision to bring them to our border. Punishing children for the sins of their parents may have been acceptable in Old Testament times, but I can't see Jesus going along with this kind of vindictive and unjustified cruelty.

How could any enlightened person consider this a viable "tactic" for discouraging immigration?

Separating infants and toddlers from their parents – for whatever reason – is morally wrong, psychologically traumatizing, and completely antithetical to everything many of us still believe this country represents.

There is absolutely no justification for engaging in this kind of barbarism; this is not how those who inhabit a shining city on a hill are supposed to act.

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