



PRESS RELEASE

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Breastfeeding International Calls for the Abolition of ICE and an End to Family Separation

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Breastfeeding International is gravely concerned by the reports of deaths and abuse in detention centres and public executions of innocent people by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The loss of life under state authority demands urgent investigation, transparency and accountability.

Breastfeeding International calls for an end to policies that normalize cruelty and condemns the ongoing separation of children from their parents by ICE and the broader continued pattern of racism and state violence inflicted on families in the United States (US), particularly People of Color.

Separating families is a human rights violation and a public health crisis. For the mother and child, separation is torture. Forcibly removing infants and children from their mothers disrupts breastfeeding, destroys maternal-child bonds, and causes profound and lifelong harm. In the US these abuses are rooted in a historic pattern of systemic racism that continues to endanger women and children of color. Black women are two to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women, and black mothers are far more aggressively targeted with infant formula - undermining breastfeeding and increasing preventable illness and death. No policy justifies the trauma inflicted on children or the denial of mothers' ability to nurture, protect, and nourish their children.

“A baby belongs in their mother’s arms - not in a detention centre built on fear,” said Dr. Magdalena Whoolery, Founder of Breastfeeding International. “When the state separates families, it doesn’t just violate rights - it breaks the human spirit. An agency that cages children and kills innocent people cannot be reformed. ICE must be abolished.”

Across the US and the world, people are witnessing fascism in America. The only way to stand up to a dictator is people power through solidarity and fierce compassionate action. Breastfeeding International joins health professionals, human rights organizations, and impacted communities in marching forward and calling for the abolition of ICE and the replacement of punitive enforcement systems with legitimate and compassionate systems that respect due process, dignity, and family unity. Human rights do not stop at borders. The protection of children and families is non-negotiable.

About Breastfeeding International

Breastfeeding International is a 501(c)3 and works in solidarity to uphold the human rights of women and children by protecting, promoting, and supporting health, nutrition, and breastfeeding.

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