

## RESOLUTION #19

### **Demand the Release of Children in ICE Detention Centers**

*Submitted by Delegate Steven M. Powell, Local 881 UFCW*

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America (US) has distinguished itself as a beacon of hope for oppressed peoples around the world, as a place of refuge for people seeking humanitarian protection from violence and persecution; and

**WHEREAS**, the peoples in many countries seeking asylum in the U.S. have for long suffered the consequences of economically and politically oppressive governments, at the service of economic elites which have been historically indifferent to the pains endured by the majority of the population in these countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the level of violence, persecution and overall insecurity affecting wide segments of the population of families seeking asylum from countries like Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, lately Nicaragua and countries from Africa; combined with the prevalence of inadequate access to economic and social opportunities for the majorities, continue to be at the heart of what drives people to flee their countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trump Administration has enacted a so-called “Zero Tolerance” approach to people arriving to our southern border without authorization, often seeking humanitarian protection, as a way of deterring people from seeking protection in the US. This practice is largely in violation of US and international law; and

**WHEREAS**, no child should ever be separated from their parents to be used as political pawn. This approach is inhuman and does not represent the principles of the United States; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, individuals, including family groups with children, be allowed to pursue their right to apply for political asylum in the United States; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the superior interest of the child, as an international standard, be faithfully upheld in the way children are treated; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the separation and detention of family groups be immediately suspended and that alternatives to detention be adopted in all cases of immigrants being processed exclusively for immigration law violations; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, no immigrant children should ever be separated from their parents, unless the superior interest of the child requires that this be done; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, U.S. Immigration Policy should be reformed, including humanitarian protection laws, considering the complex realities of the 21st Century when it comes to factors driving people to flee for their lives; and the amply known fact that immigrants and refugees have been a vastly positive factor in the life of the US throughout its history.