

Apreciable miembros del Consejo

Mi nombre es Maria Lucía Vásquez y soy residente del distrito 6.

Hoy vengo a abogar por los niños que han sido separados de sus padres por cuestiones migratorias. Estas separaciones causan angustia, ansiedad y un trauma profundo en nuestros niños.

Mi pedido al consejo es claro y urgente:

1. Asignar fondos inmediatos para salud mental y apoyo emocional en las escuelas, especialmente para niños afectados por la separación de sus familias.
2. Garantizar que las escuelas tengan programas y personal capacitado para atender a estos niños de manera continua y efectiva.
3. Reconocer que estos niños merecen crecer sin miedo y con oportunidades reales para aprender, desarrollarse y contribuir a nuestra comunidad.

Quiero compartir el caso de dos hermanitas, de sexto y segundo grado.

En mayo del año pasado, su padre fue detenido por inmigración y deportado, después de haber vivido veinte años en este país trabajando honradamente y pagando sus impuestos.

La niña mayor vive con miedo constante; incluso cuando su mamá sale sola a comprar agua, teme que le pueda pasar lo mismo que a su papá.

La menor, que un día antes celebraba sus ocho años, no entendió por qué tuvo que abandonar su hogar donde había construido sus memorias. La escuela tuvo que intervenir y llevarla a un centro de crisis por depresión y pensamientos de querer morir.

Estas niñas, antes alegres y confiadas, hoy cargan un miedo que no deberían tener.

Además, su situación económica y familiar se ha visto afectada: de tener su propia habitación, ahora deben rentar un cuarto para vivir.

Les pido que actúen con responsabilidad y humanidad; Nuestros niños dependen de decisiones valientes y concretas hoy.

Gracias.

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English

Appreciated members of the Council

My name is Maria Lucía Vásquez and I reside in district 6.

Today, I come to advocate for children who have been separated from their parents due to immigration issues. These separations cause anguish, anxiety and profound trauma in our children.

My request to the Council is clear and urgent:

1. Allocate immediate funds for mental health and emotional support in schools, especially for children affected by separation from their families.
2. Ensure that schools have programs and trained staff to support these children in a continuous and effective manner.
3. Recognize that these children deserve to grow up without fear, and with real opportunities to learn, develop and contribute to our community.

I would like to share the story of two young sisters, in the sixth and second grades.

In May of last year, their father was detained by immigration authorities, and he was deported after having lived in this country for twenty years. He was working honestly and paying taxes.

The oldest girl lives in constant fear even when her mother steps out of the house to purchase water, because she is afraid that something similar can happen to her.

The youngest sibling, whose birthday celebration was the day before his father was taken into custody, could not understand why she had to leave the home where she had built her memories. The school had to intervene and take her to a crisis center due to her depression and her suicidal thoughts.

These girls who were once joyful and trusting of other people, now carry a burden of fear that they should not have to bear.

Furthermore, their economic and family situation has been severely impacted. Before they had their own bedrooms and now, they rent a single room just to have a place to live.

I ask that you act with responsibility and humanity; our children depend on courageous and concrete decisions today.

Thank you.