

# SAN FRANCISCO **CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS** PARTNERSHIP



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 17, 2018

Contact: Tanea Lunsford, Program Coordinator, SFCIPP  
sfcipp.coordinator@gmail.com

## San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership releases new Bill of Rights for Children of Detained parents

San Francisco, CA—On October 17th San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP) will release the Bill of Rights for Children of Detained Parents to declare and advocate for the human rights of children who have detained parents and particularly children who are separated, in the custody of government agencies, from their parents during detention.

The Bill of Rights for Children of Detained Parents, inspired by SFCIPP's Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents (2000), reflects the work of a number of personally impacted community members as well government and non-profit organizations who are part of the SFCIPP general body.

This bill of rights aims to preserve the rights of migrant families through a child-centered approach, which recognizes the relationships between children and their parents as a human right. The Bill of Rights for Children of Detained Parents has the potential to influence local spending, policies, and enforcement that protects families and children. The Bill of Rights for Children of Detained Parents seeks to create a "rights to reality" wherein the rights of children and their families are acknowledged, uplifted, and protected during the process of migration. Our goal is to keep families together and away from detention and incarceration.

While it can be unanimously agreed upon that the detention and caging of children during immigration is inhumane and violent, the 2016 report produced by Project WHAT! ([We're Here and Talking](#)) report investigated just how overwhelmingly traumatic the separation of children from their parents in cases of incarceration can be. Likewise, the [Adverse Childhood Experiences Study \(ACES\)](#), performed by Kaiser and the CDC, revealed the damaging impacts such traumas like these can have on children in the present and over time--outcomes included disrupted neurodevelopment, cognitive impairment, and even early death.

Approximately 500 of the children separated from their families have not yet been reunited. We still do not know the exact number of children who have been lost while in government custody, or the number of children who have died or become gravely ill during separation from their families. Many have been adopted or placed in the care of people they do not know. Those who have been fortunate enough to experience reunification with their parents have appeared scarred, traumatized, and emotionally

disturbed. Perhaps one of the most frightening aspects of this situation is that we do not know yet how many children have been impacted and harmed in this way. We do know, however, that even one child is too many.

This bill of rights should go forward so that cities, counties, and regions across the nation have a platform to stand upon, alongside the children and families who face detention and separation. Uplifting their human rights and honoring the bond between children and their families is just one step in a long journey to addressing and healing the many horrifying traumas survived by migrant families.

###