



The Migration and Child Welfare National Network (MCWNN) is a [FREE membership](#) coalition targeted for individuals and agencies focused on the intersection of immigration and child welfare. Have you missed a recent e-news? They are now [available online!](#) Follow the MCWNN on [Twitter](#).

BRAVO & Congrats to Colorlines.com reporter Seth Freed Wessler for receiving the 2012 Hillman Prize, one of the most prestigious honors a journalist can receive, for his “Shattered Families” investigation of the intersection of deportation and child welfare.

NEW Legislation from CA –sponsored by First Focus Campaign for Children and Yali Lincroft, Policy and MCWNN eNews Co-Editor

[California Senate Moves to Protect Immigrant Families in Deportation](#) (Colorlines, Mar 28, 2012).

A California Senate committee yesterday voted in support of a bill to prevent the separation of families when children of deported parents are stuck in the child welfare system. The bill follows the release last year of “Shattered Families,” a major national investigation by Colorlines.com and its publisher the Applied Research Center that provides the first national estimate of the number of children in foster care whose parents have been detained or deported. Nearly a quarter of these estimated 5,100 children are California residents. The bill is the first piece of state legislation to address the shattered families problem.

[In California, an attempt to keep some deportee’s children out of foster care](#) (89.3 KPCC, NPR, Mar 28, 2012). In California, a state Senate committee has voted in favor of a bill that’s intended to help some immigrants in deportation hold onto their children through the process, introduced by Sen. Kevin De Leon (SB1064), a Democrat from Los Angeles. If the California bill were to become law, it would be the first of its kind in the country.

[What about the kids – what can happen when parents are deported](#) (89.3 KPCC, NPR, Feb 2012). Article describes what happens after the foreign-born parents of U.S. citizen children are deported, when relatives can’t be located or the parents are shuffled off quickly, sometimes into the labyrinthine detention system, there’s nowhere for the kids to go but foster care. The article cites recommendations from the First Focus policy report on the intersection of immigration and child welfare.

NEW Campaign

[Children Do Not Belong in Detention](#) (Women’s Refugee Commission Press Release, April 2012).

Every day, in countries around the world, thousands of immigrant children, many of them unaccompanied minors, are deprived of their freedom and are locked up simply because they do not hold the right documents. In the United States alone, over 9,000 such children were taken into custody in 2010. Last week the Women’s Refugee Commission was in Geneva for the 19th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, joining the International Detention Coalition for the release of its new report [Captured Childhood](#) and the launch of a campaign calling for an end to the detention of immigrant children.

News & Opinions

[Human Trafficking Victims: 2.4 million people across the globe are trafficked for labor, sex](#) (AP/Huffington Post, April 3, 2012).

[ICE quietly reveals they've deported over 46,000 undocumented parents but where are the children?](#) (Latina Lista, Mar 30, 2012). ICE new report shows that from Jan 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011, ICE removed 46,486 undocumented parents who claimed to have at least one US citizen children.

[Should Race be a Factor in Adoption?](#) (CNN.com, Mar 21, 2012).

[Cruel choices in deportation](#) (The News & Observer, NC, Mar 22, 2012). Story about loss of parental rights of his three US citizen children by deported Mexican farm worker, Felipe Montes.

[Deported and Now Childless](#) (Gazette Extra, Wisconsin, Mar 18, 2012). Story about parental loss for Felipe Montes case.

[Deported Dad Returns for Son's Funeral](#) (Molado citizen, Apr 3, 2012). A Mexican man will be finally able to travel to his 10-year-old son's burial in Pennsylvania after immigration officials granted his request for humanitarian permission to enter the United States.

[In Vitro Babies Denied U.S. Citizenship](#) (USA Today, Mar 20, 2012). US citizen surrogate mother gives birth to twin girls overseas in Jerusalem, through use of in vitro fertilization with embryos from donor egg and sperm. The twins are not considered an American unless one of the donor egg or sperm is an American.

[For SF Immigrants, Mirkarimi case exposes private public faultline](#) (New America Media, Mar 29, 2012). The domestic violence charges involving SF Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi and his immigrant wife reflects a desire all too familiar to immigrant communities here: the need of the immigrant victim to keep the family together, at all costs.

[Women Senators Urge Action on Violence Against Women Act](#) (Children's Monitor/CWLA, Mar 16, 2012) Women senators took to the floor of the Senate to demand quick action on legislation to improve and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, (VAWA), S. 1925. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), the majority leader, has suggested he will push for a vote by the end of March. The legislation calls for many important improvements to the law. It increases the availability of free legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, extends the definition of violence against women to include stalking, and provides training for civil and criminal court personnel to deal with families with a history of violence, and extends housing protections for victims, including families. It also allows more battered illegal immigrants to claim temporary visas, and includes same-sex couples in programs for domestic violence.

[Advance Copy of DHS Notice: Designation of Syrian Arab Republic for Temporary Protected Status](#) (Department of Homeland Security, Mar 28, 2012).

[Domestic violence – don't call the sheriff, look to health care providers](#) (New America Media, Mar 28, 2012). When emotional and physical trauma eats away at the souls of domestic-violence victims, they often do not know where to turn. It's not uncommon for recent immigrants, who have not yet built up a social network around them, to turn to a female neighbor for sympathy. A provision in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the health care reform law before the Supreme Court this week, could help establish a public-health approach to family abuse, rather than one based strictly on law enforcement.

[Fear of deportation stops immigrants reporting crime](#) (New York Daily News, Mar 28, 2012). Fear of deportation stops many immigrants who are victims of crimes or trafficking from reporting to authorities what happened. Trafficking survivors, in particular, are so wary of coming forward that the pool of 5,000 special T visas available to them each year go largely unassigned. Just 557 were approved last year. Officials believe thousands more immigrants are out there who haven't found help.

[NC judge could terminate parental rights of deported worker, put US-born sons up for adoption](#) (Associated Press, Mar 9, 2012). When immigration agents deported Felipe Montes to Mexico two years ago, his three young sons were left in the care of their mentally ill, American-born mother in a small North Carolina mountain town. Despite immigration policies that allow for the release of primary caregivers, federal authorities worked swiftly to expel Montes. Within two weeks, social workers placed the boys in foster care. Child welfare officials are now asking a judge to strip Montes of his parental rights, reasoning it's better for the children to live with strangers in the country where they were born than with their father in Mexico. Such a ruling could clear the way for their adoption. That would be unfathomable to Montes, whose only brushes with the law were a string of traffic violations. "I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't use drugs," said Montes, 32, who crossed the border illegally in 2003 to work on Christmas tree farms. "I have always taken care of my children, I have always loved them. And now, the social services people want to take away my rights and give my children away to strangers." Montes' lawyer says the father is at risk of being deemed an unfit parent solely because of his immigration status. Like thousands of deported parents whose children were taken in by the foster care system, Montes is barred from returning to visit his kids or attend court hearings on their future.

[In vitro babies denied U.S. citizenship](#) (USA Today, Mar 19, 2012). A child adopted overseas by a U.S. citizen is eligible to become an American, and a baby born in the USA is American even if the parents are not. But a child born to a U.S. citizen overseas through the increasingly common practice of in vitro fertilization with embryos from donor eggs and sperm is not American, unless an American is one of the donors. And that can be hard to prove since clinics may not reveal such things about their donors due to confidentiality agreements, immigration law experts say.

[Growing Old Sick and Latino in the South Without Papers](#) (New America Media, Mar 2012).

[Elderly Latino Parents Struggle When Children are Behind Bars](#) (New America Media, Mar 26, 2012).

[Transgender Immigrant Detainees Cut Off from Legal Help](#) (New America Media, Mar 2012).

[Punish Not the Children – Dispute Over School Enrollment for Undocumented Children](#) (by Michael Olivas, Washington Post Op Ed, Mar 14, 2012)

[ICE Opens Immigration Detention Center in Rural Texas](#) (National Public Radio, Mar 14, 2012). A new facility in Texas illustrates ICE new plan to make immigrant detention less like prison.

[Crunching – and Clarifying – the Numbers of Prosecutorial Discretion](#) (Immigration Impact, Mar 14, 2012). Last year, DHS instructed its attorneys to review the 300,000 immigrants now in deportation pending before immigration court in search of low-priority cases warranting prosecutorial discretion. Immigrant advocates argued that the figure for prosecutorial discretion could be as low as 1% but in reality, the actual numbers may be closer to 10%.

[Torn Apart by Deportation](#) (Presente.org, 4 min video). Describe a case of a deported Jamaican father due to old drug charges and the impact on the US citizen children and spouse left behind.

Resources for Service Providers

[Somali Cultural Guide](#) (Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare/Univ of Minnesota's School of Social Work, 2010, 2 pages).

[The Karen People: Culture, Faith and History](#), (Karen Buddhist Dhamma Dhutta Foundation, 2010, 51 pages). Provides basic information about the Karen people and is primarily written for people in western countries who are working with Karen refugees but may also be useful for other people working with Karen people in Thailand or Burma. It includes sections on education, marriage, family life, and more.

[Citizenship Works - New Service Puts Legal Help in the Hands of Immigrants Seeking to Naturalize](#) (online resource – a project of Immigration Advocates Network/Immigrant Legal Resource Center/Pro Bono Net). “Citizenship Works” is a new text messaging campaign sends immigrants information about United States citizenship and helps them to access free or low-cost legal help in their area.

[IMPACT Special Edition – Culture and Trauma](#) (National Child Traumatic Stress Network, Spring 2012). This Special Edition is devoted entirely to the relationship between culture and trauma. It describes the incredible work being done across the Network by members with informed perspectives on the cultural dimensions of trauma at multiple levels: the individual, including both the client and practitioner; the organization or system; and the broader community.

[CLINIC Posts 'Prosecutorial Discretion Toolkit](#) (CLINIC, Mar 2012). The purpose of this Toolkit is to help advocates understand various components of prosecutorial discretion ---- who can benefit, what is the process, and what advocates can do to assist clients both before and after the issuance of the Notice to Appear.

[ICE Detainee Transfer Policy](#) (ICE, Jan 4, 2012). ICE posted its new detainee transfer policy on its website, effective date was January 4, 2012. According to the new policy, it “establishes new prioritized transfer determinations that are meant to minimize, to the extent possible, detainee transfers outside the area of responsibility and to provide cost savings to the agency.”

[Ice Breaker Meetings Toolkit](#) (Karri Biehl and Denise Goodman, Annie E Casey Foundation, March 2012). Once a child is in foster care, child welfare agencies often use one or more types of family meetings to keep parents involved. This publication describes one particular type of meeting, the Icebreaker, a stand-alone meeting that builds a critical connection between birth parents and the foster parents who are caring for a child. In addition to this report, Casey offers [a number of icebreaker-meeting resources](#), including a video.

Research and Reports

[Where are my children ... And my Rights? Parental Rights Termination as a Consequence of Deportation](#) (by Elizabeth Hall, Duke University School of Law Journal, Vol 60, 2011, 45 pages)

ABSTRACT: The U.S. Supreme Court has set out a constitutional framework under which termination-of-parental-rights cases must be adjudicated in state courts. In all cases, this framework requires proof of parental unfitness by clear and convincing evidence before parental rights can be terminated, even when the parents in question are illegal immigrants. Despite this framework, in a rash of recently published cases, courts have terminated the parental rights of illegal immigrant parents without regard for these requirements. Those who work closely with immigrants fear that the published instances are merely the tip of the iceberg.

[In Hostile Terrain: Human Rights Violations in Immigration Enforcement in the US Southwest](#)

(Amnesty International Report, April 2012, in English or Spanish, 87 pages). Report examines the human rights violations associated with immigration enforcement at the border and in the interior of the United States. This report shows that the USA is failing in its obligations under international law to ensure these rights.

[Deportation of Parents of U.S. Born Citizens](#) (Department of Homeland Security, Mar 26, 2012).

Thanks to Representatives Roybal-Allard (D-CA-34) and Price (D-NC-4) and other members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, DHS issued this recent report showing that ICE deported nearly 46,686 parents of U.S. citizen children in the first half of 2011.

[New Families, New Friends: Organizations Working With Latina Immigrants](#)

(Arizona State University and Institute for Womens' Policy Research, March 2012, 24 pages).

This report summarizes the presentations from a strategy forum held in Phoenix, Arizona, during the week the Arizona State Legislature passed the controversial legislation SB 1070. The forum brought together researchers, activists, clergy, and other community stakeholders working with immigrant women, especially Latinas.

[Enabling Reform: Why Supporting Children with Disabilities Must be at the Heart of Successful Child Care Reform](#) (Better Care Network and EveryChild, March 2012).

Millions of children with disabilities around the world continue to be placed in harmful forms of institutional care, and such care has been clearly shown to damage child development and to enhance the isolation, vulnerability to abuse, and, in some cases, disabling conditions of children with disabilities.

[Life as an Undocumented Immigrant: How Restrictive Local Immigration Policies Affect Daily Life](#)

(Angela S. Garcia and David G. Keyes, UC Berkeley, March 2012). What happens to undocumented immigrants after the passage of anti-immigrant state laws such as Arizona's S.B. 1070 and Alabama's H.B. 56 or restrictive local ordinances such as those in Prince William County, Virginia, or Fremont, Nebraska? This report presents one of the first studies of immigrants' responses to local restrictions and enforcement.

[Trafficking, Smuggling, and Human Rights](#) (Jacqueline Bhaba, Harvard University, Migration Policy Institute, March 2005)

[Three Reports Charts Black Immigrants' Flows from Africa and the Caribbean, Demographics and Well-Being in the United States](#) (Migration Policy Institute, April 2012).

Black immigrants from Africa represented the fastest-growing segment of the foreign-born population in the US between 2000 and 2010. Overall, the Black immigrant population has more than doubled over the past 20 years, with 1.7 million immigrants from the Caribbean and about 1.1 million from Africa living in the US.

- In [Changing Demography and Circumstances for Young Black Children in African and Caribbean Immigrant Families](#), sociologist Donald J. Hernandez finds that the children of Black immigrants generally fall in the middle of multiple well-being indicators, faring less well than Asian and White children but better than the children of native-born Blacks and Hispanic children.
- In [Diverse Streams: African Migration to the United States](#), examines the rapidly growing Black African immigrant population – which grew by about 200 percent during the 1980s and 1990s and by 100 percent during the 2000s.

- [*A Demographic Profile of Black Caribbean Immigrants in the United States*](#), examines the relatively recent history of migration from the Caribbean, which began largely after changes to U.S. immigration law in 1965.

Events

[The International Day for Street Children 2012: Challenging Perceptions](#) (Consortium for Street Children, April 12, 2012). Since the first international day in 2011, the UN commissioned a [report](#) into street children in order to be better able to protect and promote their rights. This report was presented to the March 2012 session of the Human Rights Council. This year's theme is 'challenging perceptions' of street children.

[Working Effectively with Traumatized Refugee Children and Families: A Case Example with Principles of Care](#), (The Florida Center for Survivors of Torture, April 17 at 2EST) Dr. Kate Porterfield of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture, will discuss the effects of war trauma and violence on refugee children and their families and how service providers can assess and intervene with these families.

DISCLAIMER: The information in this e-news does not represent the opinion or endorsement of MCWNN. This information is intended to provide general discussion on the topic and should not be used as a substitute for professional advice which takes into consideration specific circumstances of the situation. Those seeking case consultation should seek the services of a competent professional. Much apologizes in advance for any typographical or grammatical errors. If you are interested in sharing information on FYI from MCWNN, please contact co-editors, [Yali Lincroft](#), MBA, First Focus Policy Consultant, and [Lara Bruce](#), MSW, American Humane Association, Child Welfare Specialist.