

Dear Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase,

Every child deserves to be tucked into a safe bed to sleep. But for-profit prison and detention corporations are profiting off taking parents away from children and putting families behind bars. It's time for Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase to stop financing Geo Group and and CoreCivic, two of the largest for-profit prison and detention corporations. Whether you're paying to incarcerate families or to lock parents away from their families, this is not who we strive to be as a nation.

On September 26, 2018 hundreds of thousands of people from many organizations across the nation -- including the National Domestic Workers Alliance, MomsRising, MoveOn, In The Public Interest, Little Sis, ACRE, Color of Change, Make the Road New York, AVAAZ, Enlace, Presente.org, the Center for Popular Democracy, and others -- signed petitions that were delivered to your corporate headquarters urging the end of financing of Corp Civic and Geo Group.

This is an urgent matter. Over the last several months, immigrants who arrived at the U.S. southern border seeking political asylum were locked up in federal prisons, where there are allegations that food and health care are inadequate and access to fresh air and sunlight is restricted. [1] At the Trump Administration's direction, children have been intentionally separated from their parents and held in detention, [2] immigrants seeking asylum have been incarcerated, [3] and, more recently, allegations have emerged of numerous cases involving federal officials' verbal, physical and sexual abuse of migrant children within detention facilities. [4]

Our nation is in crisis. Due to Donald Trump's destructive and divisive policies, ICE has expanded its "sweeps" and tripled the number of undocumented immigrants without criminal records it arrests. [5] Women, children, and families are being harmed and human rights abuses are happening in the name of immigration enforcement.

This is unacceptable.

Policies and practices that put kids in prison, either alone or with their families, threaten our values and who we strive to be as a nation. There can be no business in abuse.

We are outraged by your role in financing CoreCivic and GEO Group, two large for-profit prison corporations that are profiting off the pain and separation of families. Private prison companies hold contracts to operate detention centers that are being used to incarcerate adults and families.[6] In November, 2017, approximately 71% of the average daily population in ICE custody were held in privately operated jails.[7] Since ICE was created in 2003, 85 detention centers nationwide have reported a total of 176 deaths. Seventeen facilities have had three or more deaths, including eight at the CoreCivic detention center in Houston and 15 at the CoreCivic-owned Eloy Correctional Center in Arizona. Six people have died at the privately owned GEO Group-owned Adelanto Detention Facility since 2011. [8]

Private prison industries, like CoreCivic and GEO Group, depend on debt financing from banks like yours to conduct their day-to-day business operations, finance new facilities, and acquire smaller companies.

An analysis of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings shows that Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase have played a role in financing these debts. [9] In doing so, these companies are complicit in and profiting from the mass incarceration and criminalization of immigration.

More than 80 organizations that represent tens of millions of people are calling on your company to immediately stop all financing of CoreCivic and GEO Group.

We ask you to immediately inform us about the actions your company intends to take on these issues. Please note that we reserve the right to publicly disclose any information you may share with us, as the issue of human rights at the border and in communities across the nation is of great public concern.

Finally, we request a personal meeting to discuss our demands and how your company can proactively enact policies to support immigrant families at this critical moment.

Yours sincerely,

The #FamiliesBelongTogether Corporate Accountability Coalition

\*\*\*Questions? Contact: [FBTcorp@berlinrosen.com](mailto:FBTcorp@berlinrosen.com)

[1]<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-08-01/aclu-sues-trump-over-inhumane-imprisoning-of-immigrants>

[2]<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/07/31/trump-administration-official-warned-family-separations/874963002/>

[3]<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/03/15/asylum-seekers-sue-trump-administration-over-prolonged-detention/425572002/>

[4] <https://www.thenation.com/article/six-year-old-girl-sexually-abused-immigrant-detention-center/> and

<https://www.aclu.org/news/aclu-obtains-documents-showing-widespread-abuse-child-immigrants-us-custody>

[5]<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/08/ice-arrests-of-non-criminal-undocumented-immigrants-surge.html>

[6] <https://news.iittlesis.org/2018/06/21/who-is-profiting-from-incarcerating-immigrant-families/>

[7]<https://immigrantjustice.org/staff/blog/ice-released-its-most-comprehensive-immigration-detention-data-yet>

[8]<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Immigration-detention-deaths-reach-the-highest-12494624.php>

[9][https://www.inthepublicinterest.org/wp-content/uploads/ITPI\\_BanksPrivatePrisonCompanies\\_Nov2016.pdf](https://www.inthepublicinterest.org/wp-content/uploads/ITPI_BanksPrivatePrisonCompanies_Nov2016.pdf) and

[https://www.inthepublicinterest.org/wp-content/uploads/ITPI\\_JPMorganPrivatePrisons\\_FactSheet\\_Jan2017.pdf](https://www.inthepublicinterest.org/wp-content/uploads/ITPI_JPMorganPrivatePrisons_FactSheet_Jan2017.pdf) and <https://populardemocracy.org/bankrollingoppression>