MVM, Inc. response re allegation that it is profiting from the Trump administration practice of separating migrant and asylum-seeking children from their parents

25 June 2018

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited MVM, Inc. to respond to the following article:

• "Defense contractors cashing in on immigrant kids' detention," The Daily Beast, 14 June 2018

MVM sent the following response:

"MVM has tremendous empathy for the families and children arriving at the U.S. border. We have made clear that we stand ready to assist the government in any reunification efforts.

There has been a misperception of the role MVM is playing on the issue of unaccompanied immigrant children. The current services MVM provides consist of transporting undocumented families and unaccompanied children to Department of Health and Human Services designated facilities – we have not and currently do not operate shelters or any other type of housing for minors. While these children and families are in our care, our priority is ensuring they are safe and treated with dignity and compassion. We have been providing these transport services since 2014 and take pride in the level of care these children receive from our dedicated, professional staff.

In 2017, prior to the recent separation policy, MVM was one of several organizations awarded a contract to provide as-needed emergency support services to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Under this program MVM is required to maintain readiness in the event ORR requests services from MVM. To date we have not performed any emergency support services for ORR nor do we anticipate providing any services in the near future. At the direction of the company's leadership, we have removed job postings related to readiness operations under the separation policy."