

GEO Group's response re allegation that it is profiting from the detention of immigrant and asylum-seeking families and separation of families

2 July 2018

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited GEO Group to respond to the following articles:

- ["These private prisons are already profiting off of Trump's order on family separation,"](#) In These Times, 22 June 2018
- ["An examination of private financing for correctional and immigration detention facilities,"](#) In the Public Interest, June 2018

GEO Group sent the following response:

"While there has been some inaccurate speculation regarding our company's involvement in immigration and border enforcement policies and the separation of families, GEO in fact has no involvement, and has never had any involvement, in any way with the policies in question. Our company does not and has never managed facilities that house unaccompanied minors nor has our company ever provided transportation or any other services for that purpose. Furthermore, GEO does not take a position on nor have we ever advocated for or against immigration enforcement or detention policies.

For three decades, our company has managed ICE Processing Centers providing services for adults in the care of federal immigration authorities in partnership with both Democrat and Republican Administrations, and since 2014, we have managed the Karnes Family Residential Center, which has cared exclusively for mothers together with their children.

The Karnes Family Residential Center was established by the Obama Administration. The facilities, programs and services at the Karnes Family Residential Center are specifically developed to provide a safe and humane environment for those in our care. This includes educational programming, around-the-clock quality medical care, a range of recreational options, and visitation facilities. Following intake, all residents are provided with six sets of non-institutional clothing and receive a medical examination.

All residents of school age are offered educational services through a certified charter school. Other features at the Karnes Center include state-of-the-art smart-boards for classroom instruction, a library, activity games, multipurpose rooms for social activities, laundry facilities and food services catered to the residents' local cuisine. Unlimited access to fruit, snacks, drinks and infant formula is provided at all times. Recreational options at the Karnes Center include an indoor gymnasium, artificial turf soccer field, covered pavilion playground and picnic areas. Each room is equipped with bathroom and shower facilities, individual TVs and microwaves.

We strongly dispute allegations related to the care provided at the ICE Processing Centers we manage. On a daily basis, our dedicated employees deliver high quality services, including around-the-clock medical care, that comply with performance-based standards set by the federal government and adhere to guidelines set by leading third-party accreditation agencies. Our employees are proud of our record in managing ICE Processing Centers with high-quality, culturally responsive services in safe, secure, and humane environments. Members of our team strive to treat all of those entrusted to our care with compassion, dignity and respect.

As a three-decade long service provider to the federal government, our focus has always been and remains on providing high quality services that meet or exceed the strict standards set by the federal

government, and we have never advocated for or against immigration enforcement or detention policies.

[This report](#) from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General detailing the positive findings of unannounced spot inspections of family residential centers, including the Karnes Center, that were conducted by the Obama Administration in July 2016.”