

Resolution on Improving Access to Spanish, Bilingual, and Books in Various Languages for Children in Detention Centers

Whereas the mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all (ALA Policy 1.2);

Whereas the American Library Association encourages public libraries and systems to extend their services to residents of jails and other detention facilities within their taxing areas (ALA Policy B.8.2);

Whereas the American Library Association strongly supports the protection of each person's civil liberties, regardless of that individual's nationality, residency, or status (ALA Policy B.8.5.5);

Whereas the American Library Association strongly supports unfettered information access for individuals of any age who are held in prisons and immigration facilities (ALA Policy B.2.1.23);

Whereas the Reference & User Services Division of the American Library Association encourages libraries to make legal information available to library users;¹

Whereas the United States Customs and Border Protection Placement Centers has processed over 58,000 unaccompanied refugee children² in 2014, with 46,858 apprehensions on the Southwestern border in Fiscal Year 2014;³

Whereas The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA) implements the Children in Crisis⁴ project to get books into the hands of these children, ensure that they have access to storytime materials, and to make all the recent arrivals aware of the wealth of library resources that are available to them in the United States; and

Whereas Library Journal bestowed Oralia Garza de Cortés, Lucía Gonzalez, and Patrick Sullivan with the 2015 Movers & Shakers Advocates Award for coordinating the REFORMA Children in Crisis project,⁵ and has received an international grant of \$10,000 from the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY);⁶ now, therefore, be it

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Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. urges ALA members and units to support the REFORMA Children in Crisis project for the continued delivery of books to refugee children and teens;
2. encourages the director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop a partnership with the United States Customs and Border Protection agency to ensure that unaccompanied refugee children have access to books and programming in those children's native languages, whether they speak Spanish, indigenous languages, or other tongues, and bilingual books;
3. urges libraries in affected areas to provide services and programs for and with detained minors while under they are in the care of government-designated service providers; and
4. encourages ALA members, the Reference & User Services Association, and other relevant ALA units and affiliates to develop materials that meet the information and recreation needs of refugee children, teens, and their guardians, and to share that information with librarians in other affected communities.

Mover: Denice Adkins, Councilor-At-Large

Seconders: Mike Marlin, Councilor-At-Large

Mario Gonzalez, ALA Treasurer

Tuesday, June 29, 2015

¹ Guidelines for Medical, Legal, and Business Responses,

<http://www.ala.org/rusa/resources/guidelines/guidelinesmedical>

² Government publications also refer to these children as "unaccompanied alien children."

<http://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/unaccompanied-alien-children-primer/>

³ Southwest Border Unaccompanied Children, <http://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-border-unaccompanied-children>

⁴ Children in Crisis web site, <http://refugeechildren.wix.com/refugee-children>

⁵ Library Journal Movers and Shakers, <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2015/03/people/movers-shakers-2015/movers-shakers-2015/#>

⁶ IBBY Foundation Grants, <http://www.ibby.org/1531.0.html>