

July 2018

Concerned Partners:

The Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA) is appalled and concerned by the Trump Administration's inhumane policy that has separated children from their parents on the southern border of the United States. This oppressive policy normalizes racialized hatred while dividing families, many who are fleeing violence and repression in their home countries and are seeking asylum. The treatment unleashed on these fellow human beings is unacceptable and should be unfathomable in the twenty-first century. For a nation that has long touted its immigrant origins, being formed by immigrants, the Trump Administration "Zero Tolerance" Immigration Policy is wrong and unAmerican. Given the oppressive history behind family separation in this country and around the world, it is important that as part of an academic and global community we condemn this brutal practice.

These past two years since Donald Trump campaigned for the U.S. Presidency and assumed office have been exhausting and upsetting not only to racial minorities, but to women, members of the LGBTQ community, workers, military and intelligence personnel, veterans, but also to all Americans appalled by his administration's disregard for the Constitution, ethics, decency and simple common courtesy. He and his surrogates push their agenda supporting the interests of neoliberal and White Nationalism. This letter is but one effort to demonstrate a cohesive response from oral historians against Trump's backwards agenda. We cannot stay silent in the face of actions that debilitate America at its core by weakening the humane bonds that bring out the best of us. We eagerly seek your ideas in furthering meaningful resistance to the hate and oppression currently unleashed on our land.

The Southwest Oral History Association is committed to the preservation of oral history. SOHA was founded in 1981 to serve practitioners of oral history in Arizona, Southern California, Nevada, New Mexico and contiguous areas. Today, we have expanded to Texas, Oklahoma, and other parts of the Southwest. Through publications, meetings, workshops and special events, SOHA supports and promotes oral history as a method for exploring and recording history, culture, and current experiences in the Southwestern United States. In this endeavor, the association cooperates with other organizations and institutions in the region, and it maintains close ties with the national Oral History Association. Membership in SOHA provides meaningful opportunities for participation in the exchange of information and the discussion of matters of common concern among those interested in oral history throughout the Southwest region.

Please join our effort in doing what is right in this historic moment.

Sincerely,
SOHA 2017-19 Board of Directors

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