

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**Re: Amnesty International USA Endorses and Calls on All Members of the House of Representatives to Sponsor H.R. 6193 (Central America Family Protection and Reunification Act)**

July 24, 2018

Dear Representative,

On behalf of Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) and our more than one million members nationwide, we urge you to sponsor and support [the Central America Family Protection and Reunification Act \(H.R. 6193\)](#). The Central America Family Protection and Reunification Act is a solution to the Trump Administration's decision to separate families at the southern border by requiring the State Department – through our embassies in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala– to prioritize family reunification and respect the rights to the family unit. The only acceptable legislation for U.S. foreign policy in Central America is one that protects human rights, and this bill importantly highlights and combats the environment of domestic violence, rape, sex trafficking and the femicide that drives woman to flee for safety.

Since 2015, Amnesty International has documented the deepening refugee crisis from the Northern Triangle region of Central America, its [push factors](#) and [how Mexico](#) and the [United States](#) have responded to the regional crisis. In 2017 El Salvador continued to have one of the world's highest murder rates, although the number of homicides fell from 5,280 in 2016 to 3,605 in 2017. In 2017 Amnesty International documented that [429 of these murders](#) were classified as femicide. A total ban on abortion persists, and women are convicted of aggravated homicide after suffering miscarriages or other obstetric emergencies.

H.R. 6193 would require State Department reporting on all gender-based violence and organized-crime-related violence in the Northern Triangle with a particular focus on violence against children. The department would also be required to develop a strategy to reduce gender-based violence in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The bill creates the Office of Victims of Crime Committed against Individuals Removed from the United States at the State Department and requires a strategy that addresses the psychosocial and health impact of the Trump Administration's family separation policy. It is for these reasons that AIUSA supports [the Central America Family Protection and Reunification Act \(H.R. 6193\)](#) and asks you to consider cosponsoring the bill. On behalf of Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) and our more than one million members nationwide, we believe H.R. 6193 provides a strong and necessary defense for the rights of women and asylum seekers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marselha', written over a horizontal line.

Marselha Gonçalves Margerin  
Advocacy Director for the Americas  
Amnesty International USA