

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.
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A statement from Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment

Unfortunately, American Indians all too well the trauma induced by federal policy that separated our children from their families and tribal nations. The pedagogy for Indian boarding schools in the late 1800s was, "Kill the Indian to save the man." There are so many parallels to the current crisis of internment of innocent immigrant children with Indian boarding schools and forced reservation policy. Indian boarding schools even had their own cemeteries.

You would think that in this century we would be far removed from such practices at the hands of the federal government. The President of the United States just announced his intent to withdraw from the United Nations Human Rights Council. Warning signs were evident in the 1930s with German nationalism just before the Holocaust. What further signs do we need to see before the collective consciousness of Americans to understand what is happening?

Tribes are non-partisan. The welfare of our most vulnerable in our territories should not be partisan. It is incumbent upon each and every one of us, the indigenous people and the rest (ironically descendants of immigrants) to adopt a more humane policy with respect to immigrant children.

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