Children on the Border
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"Today the United States is living through a terrible humanitarian crisis."

This situation is in part a legacy of a half century of U.S. intervention in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

In 2014, over 50,000 children crossed the border in a period of eight months from Central America (CNN, May 2014).

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are responsible for providing international protection to refugees and others of concern and, together with Governments, for seeking permanent solutions to their problems.

Many children come to the United States in search of their parents who have left them behind as infants. The parents of these children have abandoned them as they have also left their native country because of the increase in violence and the lack of resources the country has. A large amount of these children have lost their parents and come to the United States searching for relatives they have never met before.

Gang violence has caused families from the Northern Triangle to risk the lives of their children by sending them to the United States. 
- Searching for a life without violence.
- Avoiding death for not becoming criminals.
- Children are fleeing domestic violence and trafficking.

Children who do not make it across the border are incarcerated for a certain amount of time, and later on released with a pending court date.

Migrant passengers are mutilated, kidnapped by drug cartels, and robbed by police and local criminals.

Others are kidnapped by gangs and drug cartels who call the children’s families to ask for money in order to let them go.

What percentage of children are immigrating to the United States?
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What actions is the government taking?
- El Salvador adopted Mano Dura (an anti-gang policy) that helped to incarcerate a large number of youth, with visible tattoos for illicit actions and gang crimes.
- Honduras passed a penal code amendment that made MS-13 illegal, and these members were put in prison for up to 12 years.
- Guatemala’s government adopted a periodic law enforcement operation to round up suspected gang members.

What happens to the children who do not make it across the border?

Reason why families send children to the United States

Conclusion

References

In El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the crime rate is among the top five in Latin America. Strong competition for territorial and economic control creates a dangerous environment.

Crimes include extortion, kidnapping, and retail sale of illegal drugs.

The MS-13 - Mara Salvatrucha - gang is composed of refugees.

"Barrio 18" is one of largest street gangs in the Western Hemisphere.