



SAMPLE LETTER TO GOVERNOR

Dear Governor [insert name],

As I am sure you are aware, there have been many reports in the media about the deplorable conditions in facilities in [name state] housing children from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, seeking asylum. These children have been traumatized by the conditions in their home countries, including gang violence, and many are arriving at the border suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues.

These vulnerable children's mental and physical health is further jeopardized by the reported conditions of their confinement at Office of Refugee Resettlement and Department of Health and Human Services facilities, including extreme overcrowding and denial of beds, adequate nutrition, and medical and mental health care.

As a social worker, I believe this treatment amounts to abuse and neglect of vulnerable children. If I had personal knowledge of caregivers treating children this way, I would immediately report to child protective services. I would expect an immediate investigation, and that perpetrators would be disciplined and appropriate corrective actions would be taken. [Add other details as desired based on your expertise/experience] We should demand nothing less from our government.

I urge you to take prompt action to order responsible [name state] agencies, including Child Protective Services and any agency that licenses these facilities, to ensure child safety and immediately investigate these reports. These agencies should further ensure that perpetrators are disciplined and other corrective actions are taken, including necessary revisions of standards of care for these children.

This is a true humanitarian crisis. I and other social workers are counting on your leadership to address this critical matter.

Sincerely

[Insert name/credential/affiliation]