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Unit 2 writing assignment

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U2 Annotated Bibliography

Do you know what women go through in immigration detention centers? Well, ever since the Trump administration enforced for immigrants to be deported, ICE has been more cruel on immigrants. Racially profiling everyone who fits the description of an “immigrant.” It is no secret that Trump sexualizes and discriminates against women, he’s been very vocal on where he believes women belong. In immigration detention centers women’s health and rights are constantly being violated. The detention centers tend to discourage females and damage them mentally and emotionally by separating them from their families, not allowing them to nurture, love their children, and even witness seeing their kids growing up. Being neglected of their medical needs and inflicting new trauma on them. Women migrate from their homes to the U.S for a better life just to end up in facilities that torment them in ways that no one really knows unless they do their research.

Ellman, Nora. Immigration Detention Is Dangerous for Women’s Health and Rights, 2019, www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2019/10/21/475997/immigration-detention-dangerous-womens-health-rights/.

Summary:

The article “Immigration Detention Is Dangerous for Women’s Health and Rights” by Nora Ellmann basically states that women's rights are constantly being treated inhumane, have inadequate health care, are abused and neglected. Unfortunately, because of Trump and his administration ICE agents are being expected to detain anybody who fits the profile of being an immigrant. Women of color are being both sexualized, discriminated and degraded. The way ICE agents interact with immigrants is harsh and brutal. Forcefully taking them to detention centers and telling them that they won’t ever see their families again. Women have suffered in the hands of immigration detention centers who criminalize, neglect basic medical care and abuse them. Nora Ellmann informed us about an immigrant woman by the name of Teresa. She was pregnant but lost her baby due to a miscarriage because she was neglected of seeing a doctor. Following up to her miscarriage Teresa had serious complications, including heavy bleeding, weight loss, and headaches and informed ICE agents about it and they told her she would be seen by a doctor. That never happened, Teresa was never able to see a doctor due to all her complications. On top of that transgender women are neglected of receiving the medicines they need making it harder for them on a daily basis.

Reflection:

When I was reading the article, “Immigration Detention Is Dangerous for Women’s Health and Rights” by Nora Ellmann I was extremely upset. How is it possible that ICE agents leave women to just remain in pain. They can help yet they choose not to. I don’t think that ICE agents should be working if they are going to treat women based on their opinions of immigrants. That only comes to show that when they have the opportunity to harm immigrants they will take it. I was

upset because no women should lose their child because of someone else's ignorant choice. Transgender woman already have it hard by being accepted in this society, it is even harder when being in facilities.

Quote: “ it is necessary to understand who the women and girls in detention are, where they are detained, and the systems that they confront when trying to access health care—including preventive and wellness services, reproductive health care, mental health care, disease and pain management, and prescription medications.”

Citation:

PBS NewsHour. “WATCH: ‘I believe these women,’ Ocasio-Cortez says of migrants in detention centers.” Online Video clip. YouTube. Youtube, 12 July 2019. Web 21 October 2020.

Summary:

In the video titled “WATCH: ‘I believe these women’, Ocasio-Cortez says of migrants in detention centers”, representative Ocasio-Cortez testified what she witnessed when visiting the detention center at the border. She emphasizes on the fact that the treatment they receive is unnecessary and inhumane. She describes the situation as a “manufactured crisis”, mainly because there is no need for children to be separated from their families whom they arrive with. Many of these people are seeking a safe place to arrive because they are running away from their home countries on the lookout for better opportunities and a better living. The only thing the system does is isolate them in the border, separate them, treat them as if they were not human and then toss them back to Mexico in the middle of dangerous states in which real human

traffickers reside. Moving on to when she entered the facility, she was told that she could not speak to the migrants and later on realized that they did not want them to speak out about how badly they were being treated. She spoke about Propublica (a news outlet) leaking a secret Facebook group in which CBP members were encouraging harm into the visitors like herself and even mocking the deaths of migrant children detained. They tried convincing her that nobody in that facility was part of that Facebook group and she later on realized that was a bizarre lie after an officer tried taking a photo of her and other congressional members and used that as a way to get their permission to enter one of the cells. Ocasio-Cortez later on gives us some insight on some of the women that she interviewed in the detention center. Different women testified how they were put in cells in which the sinks did not work and had to drink water off of the toilet bowl, Ocasio-Cortez expresses her discomfort and disgust towards these confessions. These women were mistreated to non- healthy foods and forced to sleep on concrete floors. This representative finishes her testimony by expressing her thoughts about these women and children being mistreated in front of the american flag, which represents a country founded on equality and basic human rights which were stolen from these innocent people. Overall, she emphasizes the importance of policy change rather than resources for these people which will ultimately make the situation better.

Reflection:

Watching this video as a woman part of the Mexican community, I feel distraught and frustrated knowing that I live in a country who mistreats my people. I have family and friends with an undocumented status which puts them in a position of fear of being not only deported by in detention centers where they can be mistreated as if they were animals. Ocasio-Cortez is

shouting the United States for a call to action for a policy change on detention centers and I couldn't agree more. I was absolutely terrorized knowing that a group of people in our country whom we are supposed to look up to and make us feel secure are making children's death into a joke. A reform needs to be made because nobody deserves to be treated as less than a human when they have not committed a crime. Just like anybody that has migrated to this country, they are just seeking a better life for them and their family and that should not be a justification to throw them in cages, make them drink off the toilet bowl and have them sleep in concrete floors.

Quote:

“So when these women tell me that they were put into a cell and that their sink was not working and we tested the sink ourselves, and the sink was not working and they were told to drink out of ha toilet bowl i believed the i believed these woman I believed the canker sores that I saw in their mouths because they were only allowed to be fed innutritious food. I believed them when they said they were sleeping on concrete floors for two months.”

Citation:

O'Connor, Kathleen, et al. “No Safe Haven Here: Mental Health Assessment of Women and Children Held in U.S. Immigration Detention.” UUSC, 2015,

www.uusc.org/sites/default/files/mental_health_assessment_of_women_and_children_u.s._immigration_detention.pdf.

Summary:

Commissioned by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, fellow conductors such as Kathleen O'Connor, Claire Thomas-Duckwitz, and Guillermina Gina Nuñez-Mchiri all have stated throughout the PDF file “No Safe Haven Here: Mental Health Assessment of Women and Children Held in U.S. Immigration Detention” that their goal is to help women from being tormented and from being detained in such poor conditions with unethical guidelines. Their goal is to bring awareness to the damages that ICE agents cause upon immigrant women. When women are being separated from their kids it hurts them. They can no longer nurture and witness their kids growing up. The time that they are losing with their kids will never be brought back. Unfortunately, women develop many mental illnesses while being in detention centers. They develop anxiety, depression and PTSD. Many women think about taking their own lives because of how brutal they are being treated. Everyday that passes they lose hope that one day they will be reunited with their loved ones. Mental health professionals threaten them that they will lose their children if they do not lie and say they feel better. Women are constantly eating raw foods and lacking good sleep because ICE agents wake them up randomly. Women lack good hygiene because they don't have access to showering or even to new clean clothes. If they complain about feeling sick they will just be told to drink water.

Reflection:

Before reading the PDF “No Safe Haven Here: Mental Health Assessment of Women and Children Held in U.S. Immigration Detention” I knew that women were treated unfairly in immigration detention centers but after reading it I was flabbergasted. I couldn't wrap my head around the idea of poor, vulnerable women being treated like poor animals just because they decided to enter the country illegally in order to have a better life. I genuinely believe that the

policy and guidelines that these detention centers follow should change. It is extremely unethical to mistreat women let alone deny them of their own human rights.

Quote: “Mothers are threatened with the loss of their children if they hesitate to comply with ICE orders or if they report suffering from mental health issues;; children are used as a means of social control. The term “family” detention is a peculiar misnomer.”

“Refugees who have been through horrendous experiences are at significant risk for depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress. If not treated appropriately, these conditions may result in higher health- care cost burden down the line, in addition to substantial human suffering.”

In hopes of finding a better life in the United States women end up being rejected by society and the country itself. After migrating to the United States illegally they have created a target on their backs, being hunted by ICE agents who won't stop until they are detained and deported. What happens behind the scenes is not always shown. Women are not being treated ethically, being tormented and being strayed away from basic human rights. They are being neglected of many things that should not be taken away.”

In hopes of doing better for themselves and for their families women are constantly being tortured and harmed by ice agents.