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Poverty: The Unaccompanied Immigrants' Reality

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Unaccompanied minors:
Minors may apply for asylum with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as unaccompanied minors if they:
✓ Are under 18 years old;
✓ Have no lawful immigration status in the United States; and
✓ Have no parents or legal guardians in the United States available to provide care and physical custody.

Reasons to emigrate:
Unaccompanied minors migrated to the United States in order to escape from life-threats due to gangs, poverty, lack of education, physical, emotional or sexual abuse, and to reunify with their parents or relatives.

Level of poverty:
✓ Most children of immigrants are U.S. citizens.
✓ 1 in 4 low-income children is a child of immigrants.
✓ 92% of children with foreign-born parents have a parent who works.

A huge problem:
In Summer 2018, the Health and Human Services Department faced a tidal wave of criticism for its handling of migrant children after an official acknowledged that the agency had lost track of nearly 1,500 minors in a three-month period.

A new reality in the United States:
Child poverty in immigrant families is not linked to joblessness; rather it is more closely connected to low-wage jobs.

The numbers of detainees are shocking:
In November 2018, 51,856 people were apprehended between ports of entry on the Southwest Border, compared with 51,001 in the month of October. In FY18, a total of 396,579 individuals were apprehended in ports of entry on our Southwest Border.

Current relief in New York:
The State will also provide new services to aid immigrant children who have been discharged from New York State facilities:
✓ Peer support groups;
✓ Group and individual counseling;
✓ Referrals and services to assist families;
✓ Assistance with educational and language services;
✓ Education and prevention related to human trafficking and gang violence; and
✓ Access to legal representation by Liberty Defense Project.