



Readers at odds over deporting immigrant children of illegal US residents

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Plans by US President-Elect Donald Trump to wreak havoc on illegal immigrants by shifting the focus to visas, have OBSERVER ONLINE readers locked in a debate about whether or not the children of illegal immigrants should suffer the same consequence.

In announcing his priorities for the first 100 days in office, Trump, who will be inaugurated on January 20, has vowed to direct the US Department of Labour to “investigate all abuses of visa programmes that undercut the American worker”.

US media reports said that Trump’s ascent to the US presidency has “set off a wave of fear among millions of immigrants in the United States illegally,” who are apprehensive that he will follow through with promises of deportation.

One OBSERVER ONLINE reader argued that children that were brought to the USA illegally by their parents should be able to remain adding that “adults who made a conscious decision to walk across the border or come into the country legally and over stayed their visas should not be granted any immunity or waivers.”

However, another reader countered by asking if children should gain from the illegal actions of their parents, answering with a resounding “No!”

The reader asked “If someone robbed your house and gave your belongings to their children should those children get to keep your belongings if they did not partake in the robbery?”

Another reader said laws should apply to children and adults equally, arguing that illegal immigration does not care about the age of the illegal. “Deport all illegal immigrants and all who lied or used their employer to lie to get visas.”

US media reports say Trump will “have at his fingertips” the identities and legal status of hundreds of thousands of immigrants (which include children) whose personal information was submitted to President Barack Obama following his executive orders to block their deportation.

Alex Nowrasteh, an immigration policy analyst at the Washington-based libertarian Cato Institute, said that information about the beneficiaries of the children’s programme, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), would soon be in the hands of the Trump administration.

While agreeing with the move to deport those who abuse their visa stipulations, other readers were more concerned about the “true owners” of America, arguing that, “European migrants in the 18-19th century robbed and destroyed the Indians, the true owners of America.”

Another asked “what about the descendants of the murderers and plunderers who stole the lands from the native people?”

“Why aren't they being deported, since they too are nothing more than criminals for accepting stolen properties and now making believe they are the upper crust of society?”

Another had an interesting take, saying that “America is captured land like most other places in this part of the world, so wouldn't you say its fair game for all who are brave enough...Who can make it, take it, live, work and rule is the aim.”

Another said, “Mr Trump will have to build the wall, that will generate some jobs and Congress will never deny him that money. Once you build the wall, you are going to need towers along the top of the wall (Mr Trump is good at "building towers" so no problem there). Next we will see how he gets back the money from Mexico?”

One reader implored Trump to put on his thinking cap because people with working visas are in the US because citizens won't do the jobs that the visitors are willing to do.

“They refuse jobs because they want the high-end jobs. So if Trump takes away the visas from the ones that are willing to take these jobs and the US citizens refuse, will those businesses shut down? Is that really how to build up America?”

The McClatchyDCnews network reported that Trump's investigation of the alleged abuse of the visa programmes was the first promise he made on immigration after the US Presidential Elections in November.