

Statement of Strategies for Youth Opposing Plans to Send the National Guard to “Control” Youth in Washington, D.C.

August 12, 2025

The children of Washington, DC, deserve better.

President Trump’s call for the National Guard to control ‘roving mobs of wild youth’ threatens to undermine decades of progress in juvenile justice, endangering the lives of our young people and their families.

Youth are not miniature adults. Policing young people safely and effectively requires developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, and equitable training and policies.

The National Guard has neither. This puts the Guard in an impossible position and our youth at risk.

We would do better to understand what American youth need and to address the more pressing issues America is facing: the number of children living in poverty resulting from federal budget cuts to nutrition programs, the reduction of educational opportunities, and the faltering job market.

Our nation’s children deserve better.

Statement of Lisa H. Thureau, Executive Director of Strategies for Youth