**Colorlines.com High Impact Report & Initiative**

**Included below are 1) a Colorlines.com report 2) an ARC initiative aimed at media hosted on Colorlines.com**

**1)**

**Head/Title:** [Deported Dad Begs North Carolina To Give Him Back His Children](http://colorlines.com/archives/2012/02/deported_dad_begs_north_carolina_not_put_kids_into_adoption.html)

**Outlet Name:** Colorlines.com

**Contact name and email:** Seth Wessler, swessler@arc.org

**250 words max on how your story made an impact:**

In Feb. 2012, Colorlines.com broke the story of Felipe Montes, a deported father who lost his children to foster care.  The child welfare department in the small North Carolina town where he'd lived with his family for years refused to reunify the three young boys with their father in Mexico and was moving to terminate his parental rights. Colorlines partnered with Presente.org to coordinate the release of the Colorlines story with the launch of a petition by Presente.org, calling on the county child welfare office to reunify the family. Over 20k signed the petition and other major press covered the story, including the AP, LA Times and NPR.  In August, as a result of the attention, ICE granted Montes a rare, perhaps unprecedented humanitarian parole so that he could return to the country to attend court hearings. And late last year, as Montes sat in the courtroom, a judge made the momentous decision to reunify the father and his sons. After more than two years of separation, the family will soon be free to be together again, and Montes will be allowed to take his children with him to Mexico. On a larger level, this report and follow up reporting by Colorlines.com shed light on the grave personal toll that our broken immigration and child welfare systems have on families, issues that had been outlined on a broader scale in ARC’s [Shattered Families](http://arc.org/shatteredfamilies) report.

**Optional: Video (up to 4 min), Audio (up to 5 min), infographic, other interactive digital**

<http://colorlines.com/archives/2012/02/deported_dad_begs_north_carolina_not_put_kids_into_adoption.html>

**2)**

**Title: The Applied Research Center’s (ARC) Drop the I-Word Campaign**

**Outlet: Colorlines.com**

**Contact Name/Email: Rinku Sen/rsen@arc.org**

**250 words max on how your story made an impact**

The Applied Research Center (ARC) publisher of Colorlines.com launched the [Drop the I-Word campaign](http://colorlines.com/droptheiword/) in September 2010 and we have since been pushing for media to retire describing people as "illegal" in any form. We’ve outlined the many compelling reasons to get rid of the i-word based on journalistic standards alone. Calling someone an "illegal immigrant" is 1) legally inaccurate and misleading 2) politically loaded and popularized by anti-immigrant strategists and 3) experienced as racially biased and dehumanizing by the people it is used to describe. The current debate presents an opportunity for journalists to be responsible to their readers by dropping this coded language.

The Drop the I-Word Campaign is having an impact across the media landscape. Many journalists are making way for culturally competent, respectful coverage on immigration. *The Miami Herald, The San Antonio Express-News, Fox News Latino, ABC News* and *The Huffington Post* have all dropped the i-word. In addition, the 7,800-member Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) passed a resolution in 2011 to discontinue use of the term "illegal alien" based on the idea that describing someone as "illegal" is unconstitutional. They recommended that members re-evaluate the implications of the use of "illegal immigrant."  Our campaign has also been endorsed by the national UNITY alliance of over 10,000 members comprised of the Asian American Journalists Association, National Association of Hispanic Journalists, Native American Journalists Association and most recently, the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association.

**Optional: Video (up to 4 min), Audio (up to 5 min), infographic, other interactive digital**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6GcPft7mqU&feature=player_embedded>