

## **Open statement**

We, as a coalition of organisations and community groups from around Australia, are writing to express our concern regarding the humanitarian crisis that Australia has created.

Successive Australian governments have managed and funded offshore detention camps on Manus Island and Nauru. The people detained there are clearly Australia's responsibility. This situation has reached crisis point, and immediate action must be taken.

Beyond the reports of physical and sexual abuse, including of children; inadequate medical attention; suicides and attempted suicides; even a murder; the extinguishment of hope has pushed people to the edge.

Many of these people have been recognised as refugees. We owe them protection and safety now.

Meanwhile, politicians are spending years engaged in lengthy negotiations as to the fate of these men, women and children. With the US resettlement deal in serious doubt, the most obvious and humane solution is to clear the camps and bring these people to Australia until a safe long term, appropriate outcome for them can be guaranteed.

We do not have years. Australia cannot allow another person to die or suffer because of our actions.

This is a crisis. We are calling on both major parties to form a bipartisan commitment to immediately evacuate the camps and bring these people to safety.

Signed,

The Refugee Council of Australia  
Academics for Refugees  
ActionAid Australia  
Amnesty International Australia  
APS Refugee Issues and Psychology Interest Group  
Asylum Circle  
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Group  
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre  
Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce  
Australian Council of Social Service  
Australian Council of Trade Unions  
Australian Jewish Democratic Society (AJDS)  
Australian Lawyers for Human Rights  
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation  
Australian Women in Support of Women on Nauru

Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group  
Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project  
Campaign for Australian Aid - Up To Us  
Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum  
Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees  
Children Out of Immigration Detention (ChilOut)  
Doctors for Refugees  
Free the Children Nauru  
GetUp!  
Human Rights for All Pty Ltd  
Human Rights Law Centre  
Human Rights Watch  
Hunter Asylum Seeker Advocacy  
Independent Education Union of Australia  
International Alliance Against Mandatory Detention  
Jubilee Australia  
Labor for Refugees  
Liberty Victoria  
Love Makes A Way  
Melbourne Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office  
Mums 4 Refugees  
New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties  
Oxfam Australia  
Pax Christi Queensland  
People Just Like Us  
Plan International Australia  
Queensland Council of Unions  
Queensland Nurses' Union  
Queensland Teachers' Union  
Refugee Action Coalition  
Refugee Action Network Newcastle  
Refugee Advice & Casework Service  
Refugee Advocacy Network  
RESULTS International Australia  
Rural Australians for Refugees  
Save the Children Australia  
St Vincent de Paul Society National Council  
St.Macartan's Social Justice Group Mornington  
Supporting Asylum Seekers Sydney  
Tasmanian Asylum Seeker Support  
Teachers For Refugees  
Textile Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia  
The Australia Institute  
The Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association  
The Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of  
Brisbane

The National Justice Project  
Together Branch of the ASU  
Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA  
Uniting Church in Australia  
Uniting Church in South Australia  
Victorian Council of Churches  
Welcome to Australia  
World Vision Australia

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