



Grandmothers for Refugees is a grass roots movement that advocates for compassionate welcome and safe settlement of all people seeking asylum. While our first concern is the children, we also advocate for all who are subjected to the physical and psychological damage being inflicted by Australia's offshore and onshore processing regime. We join with others in the refugee advocacy and support network in sustained opposition to Australia's mandatory and indefinite detention of people forced to flee their home countries to find safety for themselves and their families.

Asylum and protection for refugees is a human rights issue. However, successive Australian governments have made our national response to the global refugee crisis a political issue.

**In those circumstances, Grandmothers make the following**

## **Four Demands of the 46th Parliament**

- 1. End all forms of detention for refugee children.**
- 2. End refugee family separation.**
- 3. Bring all refugees from PNG and Nauru for safe settlement.**
- 4. Ensure refugee children and their families seeking asylum are held no longer than 72 hours to enable basic identity and health checks.**

**Grandmothers for Refugees actively works for change to any policies and practices which create barriers to achieving our purpose.**

**We vehemently oppose mandatory and indefinite detention.**

**Building awareness about refugee situations within the community is an ongoing campaign for us.**

## **Our urgent focus**

- >>> Children in locked and community detention.**
- >>> Men previously on Manus Island now in Port Moresby.**
- >>> Ill and traumatised people impacted by the 2020 repeal of the Medevac laws.**
- >>> Refugees on Nauru and those in detention in Australia.**

## **Our ongoing focus**

- >>> Families in community detention.**
- >>> Children, families and adults on various forms of temporary bridging visas awaiting processing of claims for refugee status.**

## **What you can do**

**It is important that Australians give voice to our values of fairness and human rights.**

- 1. Call the office of your local federal member of parliament to ask questions or register concerns. Phone numbers are on websites.**
- 2. Write letters to the newspapers, or directly to MPs at Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.**

**Whatever you do,  
DO SOMETHING!**

Contact us at  
[info@grandmothersforrefugees.org](mailto:info@grandmothersforrefugees.org)

March 2020

# REFUGEE LIVES MATTER

*"We believe that holding innocent people in indefinite detention is a form of torture. Right now, people are suffering and deteriorating physically and mentally in these brutal centres."*

**Pamela Curr AM, Refugee Advocate**

The victims of this torturous situation have not committed crimes. They have not been charged, faced a court or been sentenced by a court. Nevertheless, they are held without any date for release.

## This is what it's like on the inside

There is constant surveillance.

Complaints bring retribution.

No end in sight.

No privacy.

I've been held at Mantra motel for seven months.

She was handcuffed to a hospital bed for days.

There is too much medication.

There's a points system - 10 points for good behaviour. Activities earn 2 points.

Meals are not for socialising. 30 minutes to eat. Can't take fruit away.

Effects of detention last a long time.

There are repeated body searches.

Five years later I still have nightmares.

## We are not allowed to know about refugees

The Morrison / Dutton Government is **very selective about the information** it provides about what it does to refugees and people seeking asylum.

The **numbers, categories and location of people** in detention provided by the Government are minimalised.

Details of **contracts worth billions of dollars** to service and security companies are excluded from discovery under Freedom of Information (FOI).

**Legal proceedings are fought by government** then settled (in one case settling for \$70million) to avoid having the details of their rights violations scrutinised in court.

**Temporary visas create a twilight zone of uncertainty** Compared with refugees who have permanent visas, those in the temporary visa twilight zone are less connected to communities and have reduced productivity due to enforced separation from family and endless uncertainty.



## JOIN NOW

Send an email to [join@grandmothersforrefugees.org](mailto:join@grandmothersforrefugees.org)

Membership is free.

Friends welcome.

Contact us at [info@grandmothersforrefugees.org](mailto:info@grandmothersforrefugees.org)