



## NEWSLETTER Nov/Dec 2020

Dear Grandmothers and Frogs,  
We made it! We are, in the best possible sense, back out on the streets!



The Grandmothers are back! We celebrate our release from Covid-19 lockdown by showing the pollies and the community that we have not gone away, and we are revitalising our lobbying to [#freetherefugees](#).

In this edition you will find details of upcoming local events including a **new campaign launch and the 2020 Human Rights Day CALL TO ACTION for Dec 10<sup>th</sup>**.

The new G4R executive has been elected – the final in a series of steps planned to get us ready for what is likely to be an election year in 2021.



### Time for a Home - Campaign Launch

**When:** December 03, 2020 at 6pm - 7:30pm

**Where:** Online via Zoom... You can RSVP here:

[Time for a Home - Campaign Launch - #RightTrack](#)

#### About the Time for a Home campaign

No matter where we come from or how we got here, everyone needs a safe place to call home.

But for the past seven years, successive governments have enacted harmful policies against people seeking asylum, including the indefinite detention of everyone who arrived by boat after 19 July 2013.

Today, there are still 290 people held against their will in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. Over 1000 women, men and children have been transferred to Australia for critical medical treatment and now live in 'transitory' visa limbo. Over 200 of those people are held in locked immigration detention centres and so-called 'alternative places of detention', such as the Mantra and Kangaroo Point hotel prisons.

After 7 long years of toxic politics, it's time the Government frees these women, men and children, and quickly resettles them into our community, so they can be safe and have a place to call home.

Time for release from detention. Time for a permanent resettlement solution.

#### [Time for a home](#)

To read and sign the petition, click on the link:  
[Petition #Time For A Home #Free the Refugees](#)  
then feel free to share the link with others

Visit our website today [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org)

DECEMBER 10  
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



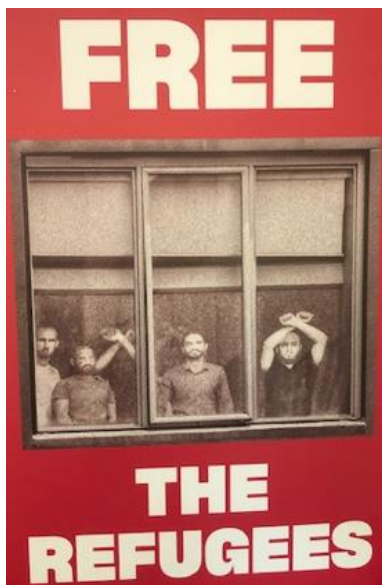
## THINK GLOBAL.ACT LOCAL

**Grandmothers for Refugees has decided to focus on raising awareness of the plight of refugees with action in our local communities this Human Rights Day, 10 December 2020.**

Every electorate group is asked to **mobilise locally**. Choose a local landmark, busy meeting place, or the office of your Federal MP. Wear your purple, display our vivid banners and posters prominently, and hand out the new flyers now available through electorate coordinators.

If you want to join a central Melbourne event, the **Melbourne electorate Grandmothers are planning to gather at St Paul's Cathedral**, Swanston Street, at 2pm, 10 December.

Other groups are planning actions, including one at the Mantra Bell City, Preston which you can join personally or virtually.



### JOIN RAC IN ACTION 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December

After 7 long years of toxic politics and punitive policies hundreds of people continue to be held in immigration detention – and in suburban hotels – here in Melbourne, and in Brisbane and Darwin. **These people must be released and resettled in our community – they need a place to call home.**

**Thursday 10 December 8-9pm Hologram Protest** - Mantra Hotel, Preston - Join in person – or virtually! see how below <https://www.facebook.com/events/131605095132588>

**To join in person** - registration required for public health reasons. Register here: <https://forms.gle/AYRMb6akyRmFNpEe7>

**To have your image in the hologram:** Send us a photo of yourself against a plain background (eg a wall), with a message of freedom and we will add your image to the hologram.

Use this form to submit your photo:

<https://forms.gle/AYRMb6akyRmFNpEe7>. **Please also share your photo on social media #FreeTheRefugees#TimeforaHome**

**Sat 12 December 2-3pm – Street action - Melbourne CBD from 2pm** (various locations)  
#Time for a Home #Free the Refugees

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1118741455209073>

PLEASE NOTE: Registration is required for public health reasons. Please go to <https://forms.gle/AYRMb6akyRmFNpEe7>

**Place a hold on Sun 20 December 8-9pm**

**Grandmothers' Silent Night with Candlelight Vigil at Mantra.** Closer to the time we will post details on our website [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org)

## Moving refugees - like pawns on a chessboard

In past weeks there have been many unexplained movements of refugees in and around detention facilities around Australia. Ten from Darwin were released in Brisbane, and a further ten from Villawood Detention Centre in Sydney were released into the community. Here is more news, courtesy of RAC Sydney and others:

### Another refugee hotel-prison opens in Brisbane Meriton apartments

| November 15, 2020 |

Without warning yesterday (14 November), ten refugees and asylum seekers were transferred from Darwin to Brisbane, where they are now being held on the 71st floor of Meriton Apartments, Adelaide Street.

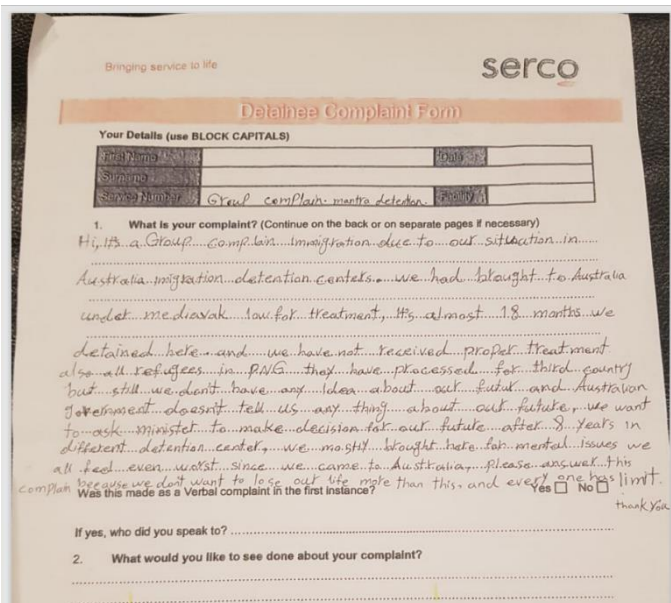
The ten single men had been held in detention at the Mercure Hotel near Darwin airport (designated as an Alternative Place of Detention, APOD) since being transferred from Nauru on 4 September, for medical treatment.

### Medevac refugees hold stay-in protest over indefinite detention (Mantra, Melbourne)

| November 26, 2020 |

Over 30 refugees, almost half of those being held at the Mantra Hotel in Melbourne, are in their sixth day of a “stay-in” protest over their continued detention and worsening conditions.

Since last Friday, the refugees are refusing to leave their rooms – boycotting all activities, and gym facilities. The refugees are protesting over being indefinitely detained since they were brought from PNG for medical treatment under the Medevac law.



In a group complaint letter, signed by 34 refugees ([see here](#)), sent on 2 November, the refugees say, “It’s almost 18 months we [have been] detained here and we have not received proper treatment... we [were] mostly brought here for mental issues [but] we feel even worse since we came to Australia.”

Serco only responded to the complaint letter, more than three weeks later, on 25 November. The “stay-in” protest came after news that 10 refugees and asylum seekers brought from Nauru on 4 September have been released into community detention after two months’ detention in Australia, while refugees transferred under Medevac legislation, are still in closed detention after more than 18 months.

**Friday, 27 Nov 2020**

- A young man in deep distress was taken from Kangaroo Point Hotel to BITA (Brisbane) in handcuffs and then to hospital.
- At 6am 30 men were woken and removed from MITA (Melbourne) to Yongah Hill (WA) without notice.
- One of the men in Mantra is scheduled to fly out to the US (1 Dec) to be followed by two more later in the week.



## Your new Executive Group

The executive group was formally elected by the Coordinating Committee at the November meeting. Thanks go to Mary Williams and Di O'Neil for their service on the previous executive. We welcome Linda and Gill.

Continuing and new Exec members elected widen input from metropolitan and regional areas. Jean has moved to Woodend (Bendigo electorate) and Gill is from Geelong (Corangamite).



*Jean Ker Walsh*  
Co-chair



*Margaret Browne*  
Co-chair



*Jane Touzeau*



*Linda Sparrow*



*Gillian Meek*

## Electorate Coordinators

Members are encouraged to learn about upcoming events and to connect with others in your electorate. If you get in touch with the Executive at [info@grandmothersforrefugees.org](mailto:info@grandmothersforrefugees.org) we will give you the contact details for your Electorate Coordinator.

Remember that we are on social media, so look for us on

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/GrandmothersforRefugees/>

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/gmothers\\_adrc/](https://twitter.com/gmothers_adrc/)

**Instagram:** [Grandmothers4Refugees \(@grandmothers4refugees\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

## NEW POSTERS and FLYERS

Fresh stocks of our vivid purple posters have been produced along with 6000 flyers for community distribution and letterboxing.

We also have free badges!! which can be given away at street vigils and rallies.

Go to [info@grandmothersforrefugees.org](mailto:info@grandmothersforrefugees.org) for supplies.

A special 'thank you' to those who have made recent donations... they are always welcome. We are now able to have more



posters printed and distributed to all electorates. Donations may be made by direct funds transfer to our bank account:

**Name: Grandmothers for Refugees**  
**BSB: 083170**  
**Account No: 83 813 3480**



This is our last scheduled Newsletter for the year...and what a year it has been! No doubt we are all hoping for a safe festive season and start to 2021.

Best wishes to all.

*Jean, Margaret, Jane, Linda, Gill*