



## Newsletter Palm Sunday 2020

Dear Grandmothers and Friends

**In this unprecedented age of coronavirus, we are all experiencing UNFREEDOM.**

For some, isolation is mandatory. For all of us it is coercive. For resistance (or plain carelessness) there are penalties.

Our current experience is just a taste of the unfreedom borne by refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia for the past seven years and more.

Even after a couple of weeks, we are a little closer to understanding their lived experience (of anxiety, frustration, loneliness, helplessness perhaps?) than we have ever been.

What can we do with these new understandings?

**This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the traditional day to rally for justice and peace.**

In our unfree circumstances, we are challenged to find new ways to show our determination to see justice done for refugees.

**SPEAK UP for JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES #justice4refugees**

What can you do? What will you do? Here's a place to start...



- Wear as much purple as you dare this Sunday (if not every day)
- Make a one-page big print message that says what you want for refugees
- Take a selfie or have someone (at a 2m safe distance, of course) take a photo of you in your purple holding your message



- Send your photo messages to us at [submit@grandmothersforrefugees.org](mailto:submit@grandmothersforrefugees.org) so we can post them on our website.
- Share your photo message with others around Australia: send it to [palmsundayrefugeemessages@gmail.com](mailto:palmsundayrefugeemessages@gmail.com)
- Tie a bunch of purple ribbons, the bigger the better, or a scarf to your fence or front door.
- Tweet or post a Facebook message with the tags #justice for refugees and #grandmothersforrefugees
- Write a letter to your local federal MP or Senator (post it to their electorate office) urging them to remember refugees as a highly vulnerable group and their duty of care to them during this pandemic. (See Tips for letter writers on our website [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org) ).

## Join the VIRTUAL Palm Sunday Rally - 11am Sunday 5 April - via YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC39QMqqLNWL-bAj5TrBWULw/videos>

### *Speakers include*

*Moz from Manus (Mostafa Azimitabar) musician now detained in a Melbourne hotel,*

*Shamindan Kanapathi, Sri Lankan Tamil refugee detained in PNG,*

*Roqaya from the refugee-led group Justice for Refugees*

*Hassan Jabber speaks about being separated from family members indefinitely*

*Tom Ballard, comedian and advocate for refugees,*

*Sr Brigid Arthur, Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project*

*Lucy Honan, Teachers for Refugees*

*Faith leaders from across the inter-faith community*

**More from around the Refugee Support Network**

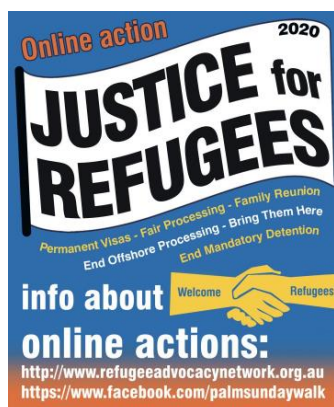
**Online Actions and Social Media for  
Palm Sunday – 5 April 2020**



**[SPEAK UP for JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES](#) #justice4refugees**

Palm Sunday is a time to call for justice and peace. This year the Palm Sunday rallies and actions across Australia are cancelled due to COVID-19, but we must not forget that

refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia, and those held offshore, are still struggling with the injustices, insecurity and cruelty of the current polices. This is a time for us to speak up for justice, and for a safer future for all - especially those who are most vulnerable in our communities.



Sign & share online petitions: [Justice for Refugees petition](#) and [Safer at Home Petition](#)

Make signs to display in your window or street

[Justice-for-Refugees-sign](#)

[Refugees are Welcome Here sign](#)

View and Share the [Virtual event](#) from 11am on Palm Sunday.

**SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIONS** from 11am on Palm Sunday – make a post on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter and use the hashtag **#justice4refugees** to get this trending.

**Not using social media?** see how to get involved [Here](#)

Find out how **FAITH GROUPS** can get involved [Here](#)

Go to [Speak Up for Justice for Refugees](#) for Justice for Refugees Facebook frames, templates, ideas and [background information](#) on the issues.

*Organised by the Palm Sunday Planning Group (Victoria)*



### **After Palm Sunday...what next?**

We know that refugees are having to adapt to the coronavirus conditions – accessing material aid if they have lost jobs and have no access to benefits; taking care of their health without access to Medicare; consulting with their lawyers about their case over the phone rather than face to face. It's tougher for them than it is for us.

Our ongoing message is: Don't give up!!

Staying in touch with us is important as things are changing on a daily basis.

**Our new website is your best source of information about events affecting this group of people who are now more vulnerable than ever.**

If you haven't visited the website yet, do try it now. Go to [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org) . Make it a favourite so you can visit regularly as the situation we face is changing so rapidly.

If you have any difficulties connecting with us, please speak to your local Electorate Coordinator. Otherwise you can contact us directly by emailing [info@grandmothersforrefugees.org](mailto:info@grandmothersforrefugees.org) .

Thank you to all those who sent messages saying they liked the website. It is giving us the capability to be more responsive to developments and to your needs for information. Return visits and loyal followers of this central source of information are what will keep you up to date with latest news about refugees and updated calls to action.

Hoping this finds you all safe and well in what are extraordinary times.

Warm wishes, and stay well,

Jean, Mary, Margaret and Jane