

Stand Up for Fairness – Welcome Refugees

Organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network and supported by:

Academics for Refugees
africause Youth and Community Services
Amnesty International
Amnesty International, Bendigo Action Group
Amnesty Refugee Network, Victoria
AMWU Victorian Branch
Anakbayan Melbourne
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce
AEU – Australian Education Union Victorian Branch
Australian Greens Victoria
Australian Hazara Women's Network
ANMF – Australian Nursing And Midwifery Federation, Victorian Branch
Australian Refugee Action Network
ASU – Australian Services Union, Victorian and Tasmanian Authorities and Services Branch
Australian Student Christian Movement, Victoria
Australian Unions for Western Sahara
Australian Western Sahara Association
AWU – Australian Workers Union
Back Your Neighbour Campaign
Ballarat Regional Trades & Labour Council
Bayan Australia
Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association
Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project
Brunswick Uniting Church
CAPSA – Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum
Catholic Social Services Victoria
Central Victorian Refugee Support Network
Collins Street Baptist Church
Combined Refugee Action Group
Darebin City Council
Doctors for Refugees
Doing Justice Group, St Mark's, Balnarring
Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
Faith Communities Council of Victoria
Freedom Socialist Party
Friends of Refugees
Gabriela Australia
Gippsland Trades & Labour Council
Grandmothers for Refugees
Greater Dandenong City Council
HCSU – Health and Community Services Union
Human Rights Law Centre
Humanists Victoria
IEU – Independent Education Union
Iranian Womens Association
Islamic Council of Victoria
Jesuit Social Services
Jews For Refugees
Justice4Refugees
Kommonground
Labor for Refugees
Liberty Victoria
Librarians for Refugees
Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum

Love Makes A Way
MCCIA – Melbourne City Churches in Action
MEAA – Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance
Melbourne Radical Women
Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church Inc.
Melbourne Unitd Eritrean Community
Merri-bek City Council
Migrante Australia
Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group
Mums for Refugees
National Amnesty Refugee Network
Northsiders for Refugees
NTEU Victorian Division
Pax Christi Victoria
People for Human Rights and Equality
Philippine Caucus for Peace
Philippines Australia Solidarity Association – PASA
RCOA – Refugee Council of Australia
RAC Vic – Refugee Action Collective
Refugee Advocacy Network
Refugee Legal
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Victoria Regional Meeting Inc.
Rural Australians for Refugees – National
Rural Australians for Refugees – Aireys Inlet
Rural Australians for Refugees – Albury Wodonga
Rural Australians for Refugees – Ballarat
Rural Australians for Refugees – Bendigo
Rural Australians for Refugees – Casey/Cardinia
Rural Australians for Refugees – Colac
Rural Australians for Refugees – Healesville
Rural Australians for Refugees – Macedon Ranges
Rural Australians for Refugees – Queenscliff
Rural Australians for Refugees – South Gippsland
Rural Australians for Refugees – Warrnambool
Shamama Association of Australia
Sisters of the Good Samaritan
Social Responsibilities Committee,
Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
Socialist Alliance
Solidarity
Solidarity with Asylum Seekers in Australia
St Paul's Cathedral
Tamil Refugee Council
Teachers for Refugees
The Salvation Army – Australian Southern Territory
Unionists for Refugees
Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
Uniting Vic Tas
VTHC – Victorian Trades Hall Council
Victorian Council of Churches
Victorian Afghan Associations Network
Victorian Socialists
Xavier Social Justice Network
Yarra City Council
Young Mercy Links

Palm Sunday Walk

Justice for Refugees



- > Permanent Visas for ALL Refugees
- > Fair Process, Work Rights and Income Support for all People Seeking Asylum
- > End Offshore Processing

Sunday 2 April 2023, 1.30pm
State Library

cnr Swanston and La Trobe Streets, Melbourne

- 1.30 Music by refugee musicians
- 2.00 Refugee speakers, faith representatives and other speakers
- 2.45 Walk through city to Parliament Gardens where there will be closing speakers and music until around 4pm



#justice4refugees #PermanentVisas
Enquiries: info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au

Justice for Refugees means:

> **Permanent visas and family reunion for all refugees**

> **Fair and timely assessment of all claims for refugee status**

> **Health care, work rights, income support, and access to education for all those seeking asylum**

> **Releasing ALL refugees from detention**

> **Offering resettlement here for refugees still in PNG and on Nauru, and those trapped in Indonesia**

> **Ending offshore processing and detention**

> **Increasing the humanitarian intake of refugees**

The change of government at the federal election in 2022 has brought hope for more compassionate policies. However, thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum are still in limbo waiting for certainty about their future. It is important to make sure that Labor keeps their policy commitments, and works towards undoing the policies which harm people and deny their basic human rights.

ALL refugees need permanent visas and access to family reunion

We welcome the news, that 19,000 refugees who have been in limbo for 10 years on temporary TPVs and SHEV visas will now be able to apply for permanent visas, and will also be able to apply for family reunion. Refugees have been separated from loved ones for many years, and family reunification is an essential element of the resettlement process.

People seeking recognition as refugees need fair and timely assessment process

Around 12,000 people have had their refugee claims processed under the flawed so-called 'Fast Track System'. After 10 years most of these people are still waiting for their claims for refugee status to be determined, and many have been unfairly refused. There is no doubt that many of these people are owed protection as refugees, and they need natural justice and a rapid pathway to permanency. The announcement by the government on 13 February has no effect for these people.

People who are seeking recognition as refugees need work rights and support in the community

People on bridging visas have no income safety net. Because of their short term visas they find it difficult to find permanent work. Some have no work rights at all. Some people do not have access to Medicare. Many people on bridging visas are struggling in poverty while living in substandard and insecure housing.

People who do not have permanent visas are unable to undertake tertiary study unless they pay full fees. Young children cannot access early childhood education and

people with disabilities are being denied NDIS support. Adults who want to build their work skills are not eligible to undertake further training.

All people who are seeking asylum need support and opportunities to live with dignity, and not be at risk of destitution while they wait for their refugee claims to be assessed.

No refugee or person seeking asylum should be held in detention

The Albanese Government has released a number of people from long term detention. However, there are still people seeking protection who remain in immigration detention, some of whom face involuntary deportation.

Refugees and people seeking asylum still in limbo on PNG, Nauru and Indonesia

At least 150 people are still held in shocking conditions on Nauru and in PNG. They need immediate pathways to safe resettlement here in Australia. There are around 1,000 refugees previously held offshore, including the families brought here from Nauru in 2015 who need the option of safe resettlement here. Around 14,000 refugees and people seeking asylum from Afghanistan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka have been stranded in Indonesia since 2014 because the Australian Government has refused to offer resettlement. These people cannot be resettled in Indonesia and cannot return to their home countries - they need the option of resettlement in Australia.

The Australian government needs to significantly increase the quota for resettling refugees

In recent years the quota of 13,750 has not been filled. The Albanese government has committed to increase the number of refugees to be resettled, but so far there has been no increase. Thousands of refugees are desperately waiting for Australia to lift its humanitarian intake to at least 30,000 per year. Importantly, all of the places in the refugee quota need to be allocated each year.

Palm Sunday is the day to come together for Justice for Refugees.

Plan to have your group represented at the Palm Sunday Walk 2023.

