



# Bring Priya, Nades and girls Home to Bilo

Nades and Priya have been living in Biloela for four years. They are Tamil asylum seekers, arriving separately by boat in 2012 and 2013 respectively. They married in 2014 and have two daughters born in Australia.

Australian Border Force officials, accompanied by police and Serco guards, arrived at the family's home at 5am on 5 March and removed them. They were given 10 minutes to pack and were flown to Melbourne. They were told to sign documents assenting to "voluntary removal" and told that, if they did not sign them, they would be denied access to a phone and forcibly deported separately. On 6 March they signed the papers but said it was under unfair duress. Priya has not been in Sri Lanka for 18 years and her family is no longer there. Like many northern Tamils, Nades had links with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and this makes him almost certain to face persecution if returned.

Marie Austin, a Biloela resident recently visited the family in detention, has said on the Home to Bilo facebook page:

"This family were not causing trouble, or looking for trouble. Their crime? To seek a 'better' life – a life that a large number of us take for granted; a life that the majority of Australians were blessed enough to have been given, purely because they were lucky enough to be born here; a life where they can be treated as equals; a life free from fear.

I have seen this family grow in number as they celebrated the births of their babies; I have chatted with them over a coffee in their home as I would any of my friends"

This branch of the \_\_\_\_\_ union calls on committees to:

1. Oppose the potential deportation to danger of Priya, Nades and their two Australian-born daughters Kopica and Tharunicaa.
2. Put out a public statement supporting the right of Priya, Nades and family to stay, and return 'Home to Bilo'.
3. Support rallies, protests, and actions by refugee groups by sending delegates, officials and representatives from workplaces with banners and flags in support of actions.

Where union members are directly employed by bodies involved in deportation (i.e. airlines) resolve to refuse to carry out the deportation.

**Pass this motion at your union meeting**