

WALK for

2019

# JUSTICE for REFUGEES

For a Fair & Welcoming Society  
Close Manus & Nauru - Bring Them Here



**Palm Sunday, April 14**  
**2pm State Library** cnr Swanston & La Trobe Sts Melbourne

Organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network, endorsed by:



call Marie Hapke 0409 252 673 or Chris Breen 0403 013 183 or visit [www.refugeeadvocacynetwork.org](http://www.refugeeadvocacynetwork.org) for more info

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## Join the Melbourne Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees. #justice4refugees

Join with people from a wide range of community groups, faith groups, unions, and others on Palm Sunday to stand up for refugees. **PLAN TO BE THERE with your friends.** Share this information through your networks, and encourage others to join you on the Walk.

### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO WALK FOR JUSTICE

In the run up to the federal election join the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice and help deliver the message to all politicians that we want a fair society that welcomes refugees.

The tremendous community support for the #KidsOffNauru campaign has helped get nearly all children and their families off Nauru. Unfortunately Australia's treatment of refugees and people seeking asylum remains punitive and unjust:

- More than 1000 people are still languishing on Nauru and Manus, most of whom are recognised as refugees. The USA has only provided selective resettlement (over 400 so far) for certain refugees from PNG and Nauru. Australia needs to take responsibility to find alternative, safe and permanent places for those refugees the US refuses to take.
- The Australian Government is neither processing nor offering protection to the children and their families brought here from Nauru, who are placed mostly in community detention – so their uncertainty continues, which impacts on their health and well-being.
- The Australian Government still refuses New Zealand's offer to provide permanent protection for some of the refugees on Nauru and Manus Island.
- Nearly 300 people continue to be held in on-shore detention centres – some for more than 9 years. Over 30,000 people are still on Bridging visas often waiting for years on their protection claim being processed
- More than 1000 individuals in 2018 and 6000 more in 2019 face destitution in our own communities as the government withdraws basic income, case management and torture and trauma counselling.
- Even though eligible for citizenship, many people granted refugee status and permanent visas continue to wait for unreasonable periods, making it more difficult for them to feel secure and settled.
- The Government actively separates families: husbands from wives, parents from children, siblings from each other.
- The Government is continuing to deport people to danger, thousands live with the threat of deportation.

Seeking protection from persecution is a human right, regardless of how people enter a country – Australia must abide by the UN Refugee Convention.

### WHAT WE WANT TO SEE FOR REFUGEES AND PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEKING ASYLUM

We are calling on Australia's political leaders to abandon the current cruel and unjust policies, and to provide permanent protection for these vulnerable people.

We are also calling for truth and respect in the public discourse – Australians are shocked that some

politicians show little regard for the truth while pursuing short term political advantage.

*Australia is RESPONSIBLE for these people. Instead of spending millions to prolong their despair, Australia should bring them here. Give them HOPE – not despair*

Stand up for a fair and welcoming society by joining the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees.

Call Marie [0409 252 673](tel:0409252673) or Chris [0403 013 183](tel:0403013183) or visit <https://facebook.com/PalmSundayWalk> for more info

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