

Walk for

2021

JUSTICE & a fair go for REFUGEES

Release ALL refugees - End Offshore Processing - Bring Them Here
Permanent Visas - Income Support - Family Reunion



Palm Sunday 28 March

2pm State Library cnr Swanston & La Trobe Sts Melbourne

Organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network to endorse the rally email info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au
call Marie 0409 252 673 or Chris 0403 013 183 or visit <https://fb.me/e/5SgGjJ5fy> for more info
This event will be COVIDsafe, please wear a mask, and register with our QR codes on the day



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WHY DO WE WALK FOR JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES?

- To raise public awareness of the ongoing plight of refugees in Australia
- To call for enlightened and humane policies to replace the cruel policies that the Federal Government presently pursues

WILL THE WALK FOR JUSTICE WILL BE COVID-SAFE?

- Yes, we have a COVID-safe plan
- We encourage the wearing of masks
- We have QR codes for registration, and there will be Covid marshals

HAVEN'T THE REFUGEES BEEN RELEASED RECENTLY?

- As a result of protest and legal action around 110 refugees (as of March 3) who came to Australia under Medevac legislation have been freed after almost 8 years
- Over 70 Medevac refugees are still arbitrarily imprisoned in Australia including 12 in the Park Hotel in Melbourne. Over 400 people who arrived by boat are held in detention in Australia. They have committed no crimes, and should all be released

ARE THOSE WHO WERE RELEASED ALLOWED TO STAY IN AUSTRALIA?

- The refugees are effectively being resettled in the community, yet the government is dumping them on 6-month 'final departure' Bridging Visas without support
- This is unfair, as the overwhelming majority are recognised as refugees
- These visas ban study, and have no safety net income support
- Refugees are expected to find work after being held in detention for 8 years. Many have health problems, and employers are often reluctant to employ people on short-term visas

HOW DO PEOPLE SURVIVE ON BRIDGING VISAS FOR YEARS?

- Tens of thousands of people who sought asylum in Australia have been living in the community on Bridging Visas for 8 years. They are in desperate poverty, relying on charity
- Many have spent years in limbo waiting for their asylum claims to be assessed
- They don't receive Job Seeker, and sometimes are not covered by Medicare
- They have no right to education and cannot re-unite with their families

WHY ARE PERMANENT VISAS SO IMPORTANT?

- Over 30,000 people who are recognised refugees have Temporary Protection Visas (3 years) or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEVs) (5 years)
- There is no certainty that these visas will be renewed, leaving refugees in permanent insecurity, with no rights to study, and no rights for family reunion
- Temporary visas make it difficult for people to rebuild their lives and get permanent work

JUSTICE & A FAIR GO FOR REFUGEES means:

- Permanent visas and family reunion for all refugees
- Fair and timely assessment of all claims for refugee status
- Safety net income for all those who are waiting for a permanent visa, if they cannot find enough work to support themselves
- Releasing All refugees from detention
- Bringing 260 people still held on Nauru and in PNG here, or allowing New Zealand to resettle them as it has offered

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