

Human Rights Day Vigil for Refugee Rights

8 years too long, **FREE THE REFUGEES**

Friday December 10, 6:30pm

701 Swanston St, Carlton

Join our vigil outside the Park Hotel-prison to mark the eighth anniversary of cruel, mandatory detention for refugees arriving by boat. After eight long years the crime of indefinite detention against refugees has not ended.

Some 46 Medevac refugees are still held in the Park hotel-prison while dozens more who were transferred here from offshore are imprisoned elsewhere in Australia. There are 239 refugees and asylum-seekers held offshore by Australia - 109 on Nauru and 130 in Papua New Guinea.

They must all be freed and resettled permanently in Australia.

On 19 July 2013, Labor prime minister Kevin Rudd declared that asylum-seekers arriving by boat would no longer be allowed to settle in Australia. Instead, they would be sent to Papua New Guinea for assessment, to be resettled there if found to be refugees or sent back to their home country if not. When the Liberals won office later that year, they adopted the policy and took an even harder line.

During those eight years, thousands of men, women and children have suffered needlessly, including instances of rape and child abuse.

Overall, according to Monash University's "Border Crossing Research Brief", the total number of deaths among asylum-seekers has been 117: 17 in offshore detention, 41 in onshore detention, 22 in the community, 3 during arrest or deportation, and 34 after deportation.

That's why we gather in solidarity with all asylum-seekers and refugees who have suffered as the result of policies and practices carried out by and on behalf of Australian governments, for 20+ years.



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