

Stand up for justice and peace

Organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network and supported by:

Academics for Refugees
africaouse 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 for Justice and Peace

No more wars
Safety net for people
seeking asylum
Permanent visas for all refugees

Sunday 24 March 2024

Parliament Gardens Cnr Nicholson and Albert Streets

- 10am Welcome to country and informal gathering
10.30am Reflections on Peace and Justice from various faith perspectives. Speakers on peace-making, the experience of seeking asylum in Australia, and policy changes needed in the treatment of people seeking refugee protection
11.15am Walk for Peace and Justice to city centre, returning to Parliament Gardens
11.45am Closing speaker and music by refugees and others

#justice4refugees #PermanentVisas

Enquiries: info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au

Everyone is welcome
Stand up for Justice and Peace, and welcome refugees



Go to QR code for further details



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 seeking asylum

> Freedom - releasing ALL refugees from detention

> Resettlement in Australia for refugees still remaining in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

> An end to off-shore processing and detention

> An increase in the humanitarian intake of refugees

Peace and Safety for all

There are wars in so many countries. Australia needs to offer compassionate protection to those who flee from war and persecution. All governments and citizens must protect human rights, protect civilians, and seek to build peace. There can be no lasting peace without justice.

While the Labor Government has brought some positive change, and the High Court has put an end to indefinite and arbitrary immigration detention, there are still thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum waiting for a safe and secure future.

ALL refugees need permanent visas and access to family reunion

In February 2023 the government announced that 19,000 people on temporary TPVs and SHEV visas would be granted permanent visas. So far about only about half of these people have permanency, the remainder continue their long wait - some have waited more than 11 years.

All people seeking recognition as refugees need fair and timely assessment processes

Under the flawed so-called 'Fast Track System', around 10,000 people have waited years to have their claims for refugee status determined, and many have been unfairly denied. The process is neither fast nor fair. These people need a fair and thorough review process that acknowledges the changing conditions in the countries they fled.

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

Those on bridging visas have no access to income if they can't work enough to support themselves and their families. Because of their short term visas they often find it difficult to find permanent work. Many do not have work rights or Medicare. They are often struggling in poverty and living in substandard and insecure housing. Adults who want to undertake further training are not eligible to build their work skills.

People who do not have permanent visas are unable to undertake tertiary study unless they pay international student fees. Young children cannot access early childhood education and people with disabilities are being denied NDIS funding.

All people who are seeking asylum need supports and opportunities to live in 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 deprived of their liberty

The Albanese Government has released a number of people from long term detention under very punitive conditions. Many these people have not committed serious crimes, and some have never been charged. Anyone who has served a prison sentence in Australia should not be further deprived of their liberty but rather, they should be offered rehabilitation and allowed to live in the community.

Australia has abandoned 50 people seeking asylum in PNG and they are now desperate

Having been held in PNG for over 10 years and detained in terrible conditions for much of that time, these people have been abandoned. They need immediate pathways to safe resettlement here in Australia. Australia has spent billions of dollars detaining them in PNG and has a moral and legal duty of care for their welfare.

Offshore processing must end

Around 60 people are now being held on Nauru. They are facing offshore detention and years of uncertainty, paid for by Australians. We cannot allow this to continue. Around 1200 refugees who were held in detention in PNG and Nauru, before being brought here for medical treatment are now living on bridging visas indefinitely in Australia because our government refuses to grant them permanent visas. Most of these people are now working in Australia, paying taxes, and need to be offered secure futures.

Australia needs to provide resettlement for refugees stranded in Indonesia

Around 14,000 refugees and people seeking asylum from Afghanistan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka have been stuck in Indonesia since 2014 when the Australian Government refused to offer resettlement, even those registered with UNHCR. These people cannot be resettled in Indonesia and cannot return to their home countries. Australia must give equal opportunity for resettlement in Australia. Many of these people already have family members here.

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.

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

