

# Stand up for justice and peace

Organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network and supported by:

3CR  
Academics for Refugees  
africause Youth and Community Services  
Amnesty International Australia  
Amnesty International, Ballarat Action Group  
Amnesty International, Bendigo Action Group  
AMWU Victorian Branch  
Anakbayan Melbourne  
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre  
Australian Advocacy for Good Governance in Sri Lanka Inc  
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  
Australian Student Christian Movement, Victoria  
Australian Unions for Western Sahara  
Australian Western Sahara Association  
AWU – Australian Workers Union Victoria  
Back Your Neighbour Campaign  
Ballarat Regional Trades & Labour Council  
Bayan Australia  
Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association  
Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project  
Brotherhood of St Laurence  
Brunswick Uniting Church  
CAPSA – Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum  
Casey for Refugees  
Catholic Social Services Victoria  
Central Victorian Refugee Support Network  
Collins Street Baptist Church  
Combined Refugee Action Group  
Darebin City Council  
Doing Justice Group, St Mark's, Balmarring  
Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria  
Free West Papua Women's Office  
Freedom Socialist Party  
Free Palestine Melbourne  
Friends of Refugees  
Gabriela Australia  
Gippsland Trades & Labour Council  
Grandmothers for Refugees  
HACSU – Health and Community Services Union  
Human Rights Law Centre  
Humanists Victoria  
IEU – Independent Education Union  
International Movement for Tamil Culture (Australia Branch)  
Iranian Women's Association  
Islamic Council of Victoria  
Jews For Refugees  
Justice4Refugees  
Justice and Freedom for Ceylon Tamils  
Kommonground  
Labor for Refugees  
Liberty Victoria  
Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum  
Love Makes A Way  
Melbourne Radical Women  
Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church Inc.  
Melbourne United Eritrean Community  
Merri-bek City Council  
Migrante Australia  
Migrante Melbourne  
Missionary Sisters of Service  
Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group  
Mums for Refugees  
National Amnesty Refugee Network  
NESS – North and East Syria Solidarity  
Northsiders for Refugees  
Pax Christi Victoria  
People for Human Rights and Equality  
Philippine Caucus for Peace  
PASA – Philippines Australia Solidarity Association  
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 – Apollo Bay  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Ballarat  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Bendigo  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Castlemaine  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Healesville  
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  
Socialist Alternative  
Solidarity  
Solidarity with Asylum Seekers in Australia  
SSI – Settlement Services International  
St Paul's Cathedral  
Teachers for Refugees  
The Salvation Army – Australian 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

Permanent visas  
for all refugees  
Safety net for people  
seeking asylum



## Sunday 24 March 2024

Parliament Gardens Cnr Nicholson and Albert Streets

- 10am Welcome and informal gathering with music.
- 10.30am Reflections on Peace and Justice from various faith perspectives. Speakers on peacemaking, the experience of seeking asylum in Australia, and policy changes needed in the treatment of people seeking refugee protection.
- 11.30am Walk for Peace and Justice to city centre, returning to Parliament Gardens.
- 12 noon Closing speaker and music by refugees and others.

**#justice4refugees #PermanentVisas**  
Enquiries: [info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au](mailto:info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au)



Go to QR code for further details

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



## 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 offshore 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 of 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



Bring a paper peace dove and / or peace dove placard. An origami template can be downloaded.

<< Download here

