



2019 Federal election

Campaign

Newsletter

ONE

Hello Grandmothers and Friends of Grandmothers,

Now that the 45th Parliament is in its final sitting days, it is time to turn our thoughts to the 46th Parliament and its responsibility for the future of refugee children, their families and all asylum seeker detainees.

Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children have been relieved to see the last of the children held on Nauru confirmed for transfer to the US where we trust they can settle in secure communities.

So, with the last of the detained children leaving Nauru, is our purpose satisfied? Job done? Not yet.

In unity with the many organisations committed to justice for refugees, there is more to do and to demand from the political leaders who will represent us after the next Federal election.

Our Planning Committee has agreed that in the coming election campaign, we will clearly state and actively pursue urgent outcomes for children and all refugees. At every opportunity we will spell out to the hopeful candidates and to the voters our core message.

The Grandmothers' Four Urgent Demands of the 46th Parliament!

1. End all forms of detention for refugee children.
2. End refugee family separations.
3. Get all refugees off Manus and Nauru to safe settlement.
4. Ensure refugee children and their families seeking asylum are held no longer than 72 hours to enable basic identity and health checks.

How is it that we dare to make these demands?

Grandmothers have a unique perspective and contribution to make

- Our many years of life experience bring long-term perspective and wisdom as elders in our communities
- Our depth of understanding that, for the full human development of children, they need to be safe, nurtured, and given every opportunity to thrive
- Our knowledge in caring for children, often stepping in where parents are unable or denied the right to parent
- Our deep shame in having to witness the tragedy of Australia's recent treatment of refugees, especially the children
- Our determination to be bold in defence of refugees and rally to the call we heard during the Canberra Ride: *Don't be too polite, girls. Don't be too polite.*

How do we plan to go about our campaign activities in what is shaping up to be a very combative political climate?

The approach we adopt – our campaign style

- ✓ We are **assertive** rather than pleading
- ✓ We are **informed, persuasive** and **courteous** rather than combative
- ✓ We are **visible and recognisable in our purple** rather than invisible and easily dismissed
- ✓ We are **politically engaged** across the spectrum rather than party political in our preferences
- ✓ We are **resilient. Always.**

A great strength of GADRC has been in the localised approach to lobbying MPs and promoting awareness in your local communities about the injustice of holding children in indefinite detention. The Planning Committee role will be to give guidance, co-ordination and share news and information to maximise the impact of electorate campaign activities. The real action needs to be at the local level.

For this critical 2019 election, electorate groups are being asked to recharge their energy levels, recruit new members if you can, and make local plans to **maximise support for The Grandmothers' Four Urgent Demands of the 46th Parliament.**

Where do we target our efforts and focus?

Our priority targets

- Local MPs and Senators
- Marginal seat candidates
- General voting public at the local electorate level
- Media (national and local media, social media, and key opinion leaders)

10 ideas to get your local campaign planning underway

#1 Stay informed on the refugee issues being raised in the lead-up to the campaign

#2 Log on regularly to the Grandmother's websites to stay connected and up to date

#3 Continue to use Facebook and social media to promote your actions

#4 Catch up regularly with local Grandmothers to plan local actions and share news

#5 Keep up the letter writing, emailing and phoning as local constituents to local candidates

#6 Stage local events and join centrally planned events

[Watch the Newsletters for details of our own main event early in the campaign to announce **The Grandmothers Four Urgent Demands on the 46th Parliament**]

#7 Plan to be a large **purple presence** at the **2019 Palm Sunday Rallies (April 14th).**

#8 Get involved in Radio Talkback

[Monitor talkback programs and call in when there are opportunities to speak on refugee issues and succinctly state **The Grandmothers' Four Urgent Demands of the 46th Parliament.**]

#9 Make sure you use your local press and send them pics of your events

[Suburban and regional media are still strong channels for reaching local communities.]

#10 Give voice to your own best idea not included above

Watch for the GADRC Campaign Newsletter issued fortnightly to your email inbox.