

# REFUGEE CHILDREN STILL NOT SAFE

Child refugees are off Nauru at last (March 2019), but our trusted advice is:

**5 children** remain in locked detention;  
**287 children** are in community detention; and  
**2453 refugee children** are in community on Bridging Visas.

## THEY'RE NOT SAFE YET!

While our primary concern as grandmothers is focused on the children, we know almost **1000 refugees and asylum seekers** linger in indefinite offshore detention. Some of these refugees were children when they arrived over five years ago.

Some are parents separated from their children. All are someone's children and grandchildren.

For their future, urgent safeguards are essential to STOP the ongoing cruel and inhumane treatment of refugees.

The next Parliament must redress the wrongs of the past.

***"We, the Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children, call on all incoming parliamentarians to end Australia's cruelty to refugees and to legislate in accordance with these four demands."***

## Four demands on the 46th Parliament

**1** End all forms of detention for refugee children.

**2** End refugee family separation.

**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.



Find out more at  
[www.grandmothersadrc.org](http://www.grandmothersadrc.org)

### JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

Email [grandmothersref@gmail.com](mailto:grandmothersref@gmail.com) giving your name, email address and Federal Electorate.

### CONTACT THE CANDIDATES

Contact each candidate who drops a flyer into your letterbox to say that you expect their support for the Grandmothers' Four Demands of the 46th Parliament.

### START A CONVERSATION

Introduce your family and friends to the case we make (see overleaf) for the 46th Parliament to reset Australia's refugee policy from cruelty to humanity.

# Our case for the 46th Parliament to reset Australia's refugee policy

## 1. End all forms of detention for refugee children

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child obliges Australia as a signatory to protect the liberty of children.
- A child is an innocent, incapable of the full reasoning that warrants accountability before the law or consequent punishment. Detention is punishment. Indefinite detention is experienced as torture.
- Whether it is detention behind bars or barbed wire on a remote island or on mainland Australia, or community detention where all aspects of life are governed and personal freedom is denied, detention limits the developmental opportunities for children to grow and flourish.

## 2. End refugee family separation

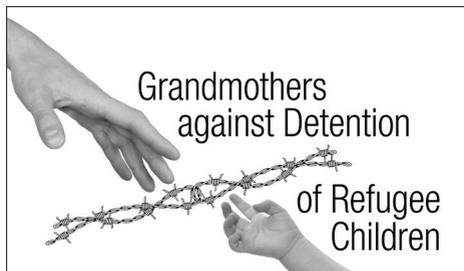
- It is against the basic human rights of any child to be separated from parents or family within a regime of politically-motivated detention.
- Wherever possible, children should be cared for in community settings with primary caregivers. For all children, attachment is central to well-being and recovery from trauma.
- The family values upheld by political leaders for themselves and the Australian community are devalued by the hypocrisy of politically mandated separation of refugee family members.

## 3. Get all refugees off Manus and Nauru to safe settlement

- The irrefutable evidence is that indefinite detention on Manus and Nauru is unsafe and is the cause of death, psychological trauma and physical harm.
- Safe settlement and a secure future are essential for all refugee children, particularly those with lived experience of extended detention on Nauru.
- After more than five years – and still with no prospect of an orderly and timely alternative to indefinite detention – the regional processing purpose of Manus and Nauru is a demonstrable failure. The urgent remedy is immediate safe settlement, in Australia if necessary.

## 4. Ensure refugee children and their families seeking asylum are held no longer than 72 hours to enable basic identity and health checks.

- Children and their families warrant priority attention in the processing of claims for asylum and safe refuge.
- The practice of detaining children should only occur for the shortest possible time and with decisions informed by the best interests of the child – not the political interest of any government.
- 72 hours is a reasonable period for assessment of any immediate health risk and, if necessary, transfer for treatment in a community setting.



Find out more at

[www.grandmothersadrc.org](http://www.grandmothersadrc.org)

**VOTE** for the candidate who agrees that the time is now to reset refugee policy from cruelty to humanity.



Authorised by Jean Ker Walsh, PO Box 1279, 146 Elgin Street, Carlton, for Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children.

April / May 2019