

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition from concerned citizens of the Australian community

draws to the attention of the House the need to enact a more humane response to asylum seekers, that properly reflects the UNHCR Refugee Convention to which Australia is a signatory; with particular regard to the following facts:

1. Seeking asylum, even by any means and without documents, is legal under the Refugee Convention.
2. Over 90% of refugees have proven to be genuine refugees fleeing persecution.
3. Asylum seekers are civilians fleeing persecution and nearly one fifth are children under the age of 18.
4. Comparatively few arrive in Australia, as we receive only 3% of the world's asylum applications.
5. There is no Queue to Jump: Asylum seekers are supposed to arrive in a safe country and then apply for asylum. Very few asylum seekers are able to register with the UNHCR, and there is no orderly queue.

We therefore add our voice to many other Australians and ask the House to;

- fast-track the processing time of asylum seekers' protection claims in order that they can effectively rebuild their life and reunite with their families;
- facilitate the right of asylum seekers to be part of the community;
- integrate people seeking asylum into our community by finding a place where they can live in peace and safety;
- immediately end offshore detention;
- completely end the mandatory detention of children.