

Gabriel Mary Fuller

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Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
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Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

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Submission regarding Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2017

Dear Committee Secretary,

My name is Gabriel Mary Fuller. I am extremely concerned about Australia's treatment of people seeking asylum. It is unbelievably distressing to know that we, through our immigration laws, are treating asylum seekers as criminals when it is not against our laws for people to seek asylum - regardless of how they try to reach our shores.

There is absolutely no reason for the proposed amendment Bill to be put. I cannot understand the mentality of our Governments over the last years - they are institutionalising cruelty and the more they get away with it the more debased are we Australians.

I feel powerless as I watch the brutality enacted towards our fellow human beings who are in detention and yet are not criminals. No Minister should be given power over people's lives without us having the ability to question what he or she may determine as a "prohibited thing." (I can't believe that the word "thing" is even being used in an amendment). Why would we give special powers to a Minister without the recourse of taking the matter to Court to challenge his/her definition of "a prohibited thing".

I call Australia's treatment of asylum seekers mental cruelty and that can be equated with torture. Did not Australia sign the UN's declaration banning the use of torture?

This legislation puts us on the slippery slope to dictatorship. It must be voted down.

Yours sincerely,

Gabriel Fuller