

7/04/2010

Committee Secretary
Senate, Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

To The Committee Secretary.

In reference to the report of the Anti-People Smuggling and Other Measures Bill.

This Bill indicates that people smuggling is exploitive and dangerous and is a pernicious trade and that the Government has a comprehensive, hardline approach to combat the scourge of people smuggling!

I believe the penalties for people smuggling that this Bill will introduce are extreme!

In 2007 the Labor Government was elected in part because of public revulsion over the Howard Government's prolonged detention of refugees on the tiny Pacific Island Nauru but the Rudd Government's anti-refugee regime consists of even harsher laws!

It appears the Government is determined to reinforce the message that people should use authorised migration processes in seeking asylum and migrating to Australia and in supporting others to come here. How can these people do this when most are fleeing political, ethnic or religious repression and war and have no choice but to escape without legal permission? These people are simply seeking what should be a fundamental right for all people to live and work wherever they choose, away from persecution and poverty and with full social and political rights.

For humanity sake please do not pass this Bill

Yours sincerely

Doreen Roache