

From: Joy Connor [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 January 2022 3:21 PM
To: Committee, Migration (REPS) <migration@aph.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Att the Committee on Migration inquiry 'Ending Indefinite and Arbitrary Detention Immigration Bill'

Dear Committee,

I write to give my unqualified support to the 'Ending Indefinite and Arbitrary Detention Immigration Bill'

I have been visiting and staying in contact with refugees in detention for the last 6 years. Many of the people I have been involved in have been moved around the country and I have stayed in touch. I have seen bright eyed hopeful young men with so much to offer become so depressed that they are medicated with anti-depression drugs, put on weight and become lethargic with shuttered eyes and no interest in life.

The extent of the depression was really driven home to me when I asked management if I could send a guitar into a detainee and was told no, they might use the strings to do themselves permanent damage. ie commit suicide.

Eight years indefinite detention is far too long and there are others who have been detained longer. A few have committed minor crimes but none have deserved a life sentence. Most are only in detention for coming by boat.

This Bill is a chance to set people free.

The scare tactics around any leniency causing a flood of refugees is rubbish. Currently we have Australian and other regional country's naval boats stopping boats and turning refugee boats around and towing them back to the place from which they embarked.

The torture of these people is purely a political tactic.

The worst thing is to see the impact on people when they are released into the community after years of detention. They find it so hard to adjust and have lost so much confidence it takes ages and an immense amount of support to get them able to cope with any change.

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BMRSG endorses the Uluru Statement from the Heart

