

**Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
P.O.Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia**

**Re Anti-People Smuggling and Other Measures Bill 2010**

**There is a global surge in the movement of asylum seekers owing to the conflict in many parts of the world, particularly in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, the Middle East, and many African countries.**

**People fleeing political, ethnic or religious persecution have an urgent need to escape, probably without proper documentation. Besides, many countries do not have facilities for the person to obtain legal permission to leave.**

**In the last decade 1.5% of all asylum seekers across the globe have come to Australia seeking protection. These are not large numbers.**

**The whole question of displaced people, many of whom are asylum seekers, is a global issue and it requires a global solution. Instead of demonising people smugglers, as we learnt to do with our previous government, we need to look at the reasons behind the drastic steps these people take in their search for freedom. While these situations of war and conflict persist, people will find a way to seek safety. Desperate people will risk desperate measures.**

**Australia is a signatory to the UN Convention on Refugees 1951, and any person is entitled by international law to arrive on our shores and request protection. That person must be given, with legal support, a fair process to ascertain their refugee status.**

**I do not agree with the provisions of this Bill.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Kath Morton**