

## Migration Amendment (Evacuation to Safety) Bill 2023

To whom it may concern,

South Gippsland Rural Australians For Refugees unequivocally back the Migration Amendment (Evacuation to Safety) Bill 2023.

Walking in their shoes.

As parents, we would be in despair if one of our children was imprisoned on an island for ten years.

As human beings, our sense of justice is troubled. In our society, if we commit a crime, we are given a definite sentence then set free to rebuild our lives after we have served the sentence. Even if you argue that the imprisoned seekers of peace have committed a crime, is ten years on an island not punishment enough for making the mistake of asking Australia for asylum?

As an Australian citizen, we are concerned about our standing in the international community. No! We are ashamed.

As a refugee from antisemitism, I, the author of the present email, put myself in the prisoners' shoes and I cry.

My family ran from Poland to escape explicit and implicit antisemitism at every aspect in society. We as children were vilified at school by teachers and students, our Mother was served the worst fish, on the rare occasion she could get it. There was no meat. Often after waiting for hours in a queue the food she was after would run out just when she got to the counter. Being welcomed in Australia was a saving grace to our family. My sister is a PHD and was a cancer researcher, I was a teacher for many years, our son is PHD and a senior research fellow at Melbourne University.

We, refugees, are forever grateful for the chance at a productive, peaceful life. We give back and help build Australia as a wealthy, compassionate nation.

Give the refugees now on Nauru and PNG who want to come to Australia, a chance to be grateful and give back.

We ask you, in the name of practicality, justice, morality, compassion and pride in our beautiful country, to bring the refugees from Nauru and PNG to Australia to for care of their wounds, for a chance to give back, for family reunion.

Sincerely yours,

Felicia Di Stefano, Coordinator South Gippsland Rural Australians for Refugees

Mobile:

Address:

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*We acknowledge our First Nations people as custodians of the land and waterways we*

*live on. We note that the First Nations people never ceded their land and we give respect*

*to their elders as well as to all the First Nations people*