

Human rights are not something we can put into practice when it is convenient or comfortable for us but something we must sustain and make available to all people at all times.

Treating people who have fled persecution, violence and trauma as criminals, locking them up indefinitely and separating them from their families is, at best, disrespectful and shirks our international obligations, and is, at worst, cruel and inhumane.

If your family (your mother, your brother, your children) had felt there was no option but to flee their beloved homeland (Australia) as they had experienced threats, actual violence and persecution and feared for their safety would you like to think that after a dangerous and terrifying journey they would be separated from each other, locked up and be placed under severe mental and emotional strain?

Refugees are human beings with stories, histories, families and loved ones. They are not political footballs. Please do the right thing and create a humane, practical and more economical way to help our fellow human beings.