

Dear Committee of Inquiry into Australia's immigration detention network,

I am writing to express my opinion that mandatory detention of refugees and asylum seekers should be ended, or at least used as an absolute last resort and for the shortest practical period of time. There should be a legal upper limit to the period, say 90 days, and naturally all detention decisions, and other decisions relating to asylum seekers and refugees, should be subject to independent monitoring and judicial review.

In addition, I think children should not be held in detention at all, so neither should their parents.

I agree with GetUp's suggestion that all members of Parliament should commit to improving the public debate and refrain from political point-scoring about asylum seeker issues, acknowledging that it is not illegal to seek asylum and that Australia has freely entered into the international obligations contained in the 1951 Refugee Convention and other international instruments.

Sincerely,