

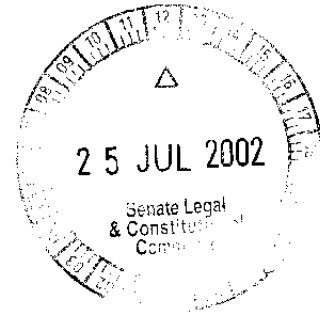
DOMINICAN SISTERS OF NORTH ADELAIDE

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21st July, 2001



The Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional Reference Committee,
Suite S1 108,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT, 2600.

Dear Sir / Madam,

We the Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide write to object to "The Migration Legislation Amendment (Further Border Protection Measures) Bill 2002.

Reference A:

The excision of the small north western and eastern islands of Australia so that asylum seekers, can not claim asylum will not stop people who are desperate to find a safe home for themselves and their family.

We recommend the bill be rejected because it will not achieve its purpose of border security.

Reference F:

All people have the right to enter a country for the purpose of seeking asylum. The Migration Act of 1958 gives asylum seekers this right to enter Australia. Catholic Social Teaching has a long history of defending human rights since 1891. In Pope John XXIII's Encyclical letter "*Pacem in Terris*", on Establishing Universal Peace in Truth, Justice, Charity, and Liberty, 1963 p106, he states "*among a person's personal rights we must include their right to enter a country in which they hope to be able to provide more fittingly for themselves and their dependents. It is therefore the duty of State officials to accept such immigrants and ... so far as the good of their own community, rightly understood, permits ... to further the aims of those who may wish to become members of a new society*". Surely this is the way Australia has been built on wave after wave of people seeking a new life in a free democratic society. This is true from the very beginning in South Australia.

We recommend the bill be rejected because it is against basic human rights that exist in the Migration Act of 1958.

Our understanding is that the Bill has been rejected by the Parliament once and therefore should not be presented again, this subvert the will of Parliament.

We ask you to give these objections your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Julie McMahon OP". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'S' at the beginning.

Sr. Julie McMahon OP
Justice, Peace and Development Co-ordinator
Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide