

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia



Migration Amendment (Designated Unauthorised Arrivals) Bill 2006

We oppose the Migration Amendment (Designated Unauthorised Arrivals) Bill 2006.

Our understanding is that under the proposal, all asylum seekers arriving by boat would be removed from Australia and taken to offshore centres. Even those found to be refugees under the Australian system would remain in remote locations until resettled by a 'third country'.

The Australian Navy may be used to forcibly turn around boats of asylum seekers, returning people to the very places they fled.

We draw your attention to the following key points:

- Children will again be forced to grow up in detention.
- Both asylum seekers and refugees will face the prospect of indefinite detention in a remote and isolated location.
- Australia has an international legal obligation to provide protection to refugees who land in Australia. This obligation can not be left to a 'third country' to meet.
- Australia may be responsible for returning refugees to persecution and torture.

The proposed changes deny basic human rights to people who have faced persecution and breach Australia's international obligations under the Refugee Convention.

We strongly oppose the proposed legislation and urge your Committee to ensure that Parliament is fully aware that the Bill breaches Australia's international obligations and to oppose this proposed legislation.