

The Combined Refugee Action Group advocates for policies that are informed by the UN Refugee Convention and Protocol, and that are developed in partnership with our regional neighbours, to ensure the safety of vulnerable people seeking asylum. We consider that it is imperative that the Government implements the following points in accordance with Article 31 of the UN Refugee Convention, which states that all contracting States (including Australia), must not impose penalties on people who arrive without authorisation seeking refugee protection.



We call on the Government to:

- Immediately close onshore and offshore detention centres, with people seeking asylum brought to Australia, where all asylum claims will be heard in a timely manner and with justice and compassion.

- Reinstate into the Migration Zone the Australian mainland and all other Australian territories that have been excised from Australia's Migration Zone.
- Permanently resettle in Australia asylum seekers who have arrived by boat without authorisation and who are found to be refugees under the UN Refugee Convention.
- Permit the right to apply for family reunion once people seeking asylum are recognised as refugees, with family reunions achieved in a timely manner.
- Ensure people seeking asylum have the right to work when living in the community, while their claims for asylum are being assessed.
- Put an end to the punitive treatment, harsh rhetoric and vilification of people seeking asylum who have arrived by boat without authorisation; cease providing misleading information about them to the public or, under the guise of secret operations, very little information.

- Increase Australia's annual intake of refugees and expand and expedite refugee resettlement from Indonesia and other transit countries in our region.
- Exercise a duty of care to ensure that people seeking asylum are not pressured to sign documents to return to their home countries against their will when they have a genuine fear of persecution and death.
- Release into the community those people who have been recognised as refugees, but who are detained indefinitely due to adverse security assessments by ASIO.

(This Resolution was endorsed by approximately 700 people at a Public Forum organised by CRAG in Geelong in February 2014.)



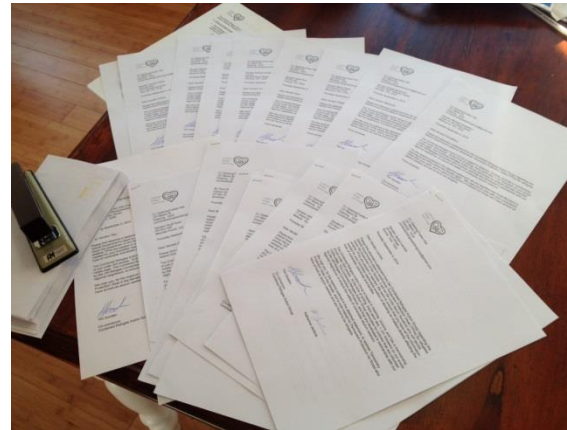
Combined Refugee Action Group (CRAG) is based in the Geelong region and brings together people from a variety of backgrounds –Community and Church Groups, Unions, Refugee Support Groups, Social Justice and Social Action Groups, students and individuals - united by the shared aim of advocating for just, humane and welcoming policy towards people seeking asylum and refugees.



“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” - Desmond Tutu

COMBINED REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

Advocating for the rights of all
refugees and people seeking asylum



**CRAG meets at 5:30 pm on the first
Thursday of each month
at Geelong Trades Hall
127 Myers Street, Geelong**
(usually in the hall on the lower floor)

**NEW SUPPORTERS ARE ALWAYS
WELCOME**

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