

info@justiceforrefugeessa.org

PO Box 6036 Halifax Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Facebook Justice for Refugees SA

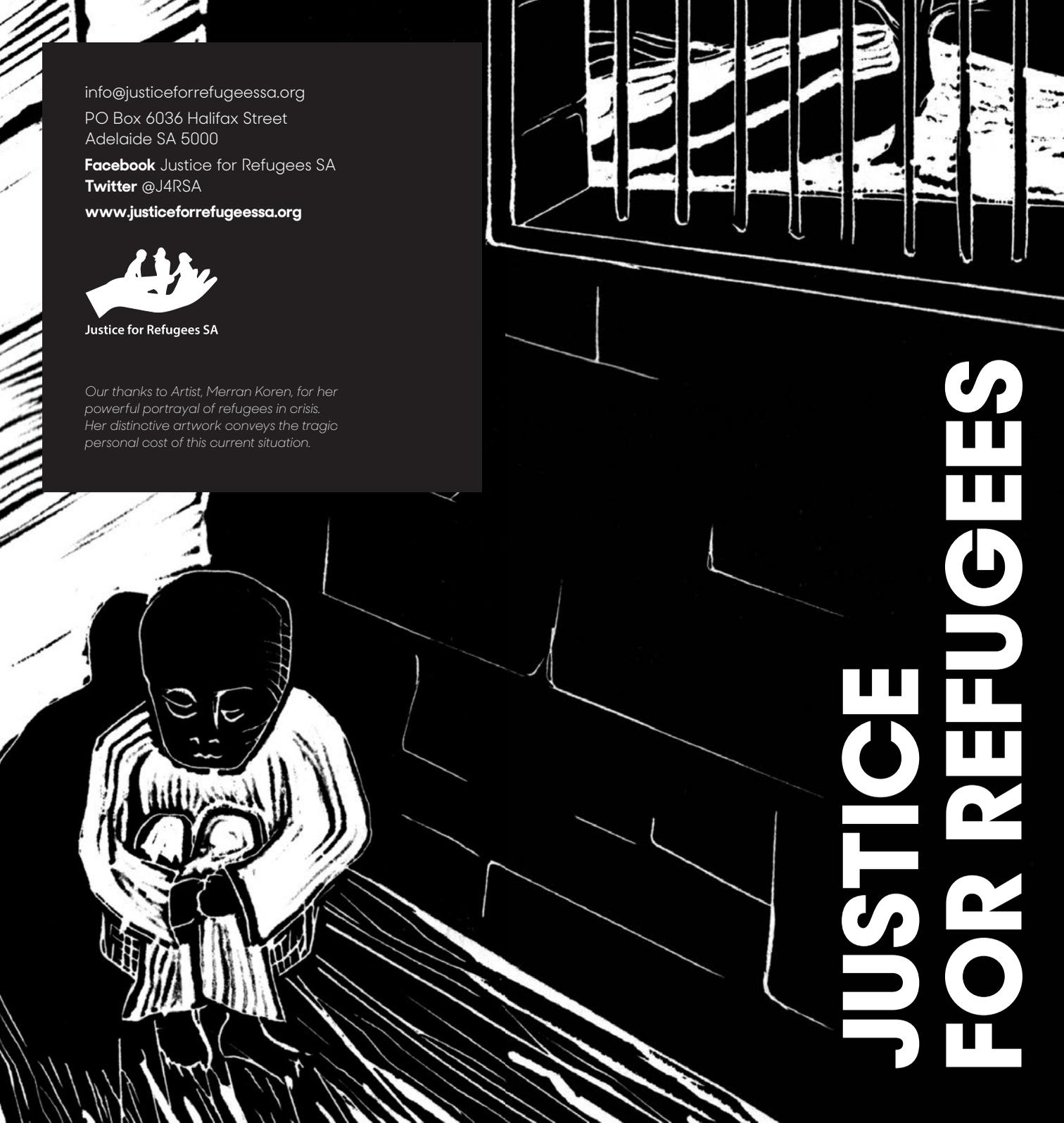
Twitter @J4RSA

www.justiceforrefugeessa.org



Justice for Refugees SA

Our thanks to Artist, Merran Koren, for her powerful portrayal of refugees in crisis. Her distinctive artwork conveys the tragic personal cost of this current situation.



JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES

The public discussion involving refugees and asylum seekers has been characterised by emotion, misunderstanding and political self-interest. However, this important and complex social and political issue requires a more balanced discussion founded on facts.

To understand the reality of life as a refugee and Australia's attitude towards asylum seekers, we need to ask, and answer, six basic questions.



WHO IS A REFUGEE?

The official United Nations definition of a **refugee** runs to nearly 100 words but, in essence, says a refugee is any person who is outside of their own country because of a legitimate fear of persecution in their home country because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political belief.

WHO?



WHAT ARE THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES?

Both major political parties have closed Australia's borders to asylum seekers despite their displacement by war or persecution in their home countries. Under current Federal Government policy, asylum seekers arriving by boat are identified as 'illegal maritime arrivals' and will be intercepted at sea and either turned back into international waters or taken into offshore detention on Manus Island or on Nauru.

People currently in offshore detention – more than 1,500, including 80 plus children – are no longer eligible for a Permanent Protection Visa. Under the Government's amendments to the migration laws, they will never be allowed to settle in Australia even if found to be genuine refugees.

There are more than 28,000 asylum seekers living in Australia on Bridging Visas and contributing to the lives of their local communities. A Temporary Protection Visa, which leaves refugees vulnerable to a very uncertain future, is the 'best' outcome available to them. Although all have been in Australia for more than two years – some for much longer – they continue to live with the threat of being returned to the dangerous situation from which they fled.

WHAT?

WHERE IS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HOLDING ASYLUM SEEKERS?

With the virtual end of boat arrivals in the past two years, the focus of public debate is now on the conditions being experienced by asylum seekers on Manus Island and on Nauru. In spite of attempts by the Federal Government to keep the detention centres off limits to journalists and refugee advocates, a disturbing picture of inhumane conditions, deprivation and sexual assaults of detainees has emerged.

WHERE?





WHEN?

WHEN DID THIS CRISIS START?

The contention over asylum seeker policy has been building since the Tampa incident in 2001, over which time fluctuating policy measures have influenced both steep rises and falls in asylum seeker boat arrivals.

Annual boat arrivals remained in single figures from 2002 to 2004, and then began to accelerate from 2007 reaching peaks of 278 boats and 300 boats in 2012 and 2013, respectively. After the Government introduced new policy measures, arrivals dropped to one boat in 2014. The raw reality of refugees succumbing to the desperate measure of boarding boats to seek asylum in Australia has been removed from our field of vision, but their plight and desperation have not changed.

WHY WOULD YOU LEAVE YOUR HOME?

People seeking refuge in Australia are fleeing conflict or persecution in their home countries. Recent media attention has focused on the civil war in Syria and Iraq. The Federal Government has responded with an increase of 12,000 in Australia's refugee intake from people affected by that conflict – an increase close to Australia's permanent refugee and humanitarian intake of 13,768 in 2013–14. But as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees notes, there are 17 current major conflicts spanning Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe with more than 60 million people displaced worldwide as a result.

Those who challenge the motives of asylum seekers arriving in Australia might be asked to consider this question:

Unless you are pressured by an untenable situation and risk harm to you and your family, would you leave your country of birth, your family ties, your history and cultural familiarity for an uncertain future on the other side of the world with no promise of connections, work or help?

WHY?



HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS?



Justice for Refugees SA (J4RSA) was reconvened as an advocacy organisation in 2015. J4RSA is committed to educating and influencing the policy agenda of all political parties in order to improve the lives of asylum seekers and refugees.

We invite you to consider the tangible ways you can support J4RSA:

- **Participate in the policy debate**
Contribute to submissions to Federal Parliament e.g. our recent submission arguing against amendments to the Migration Act which we believe would expose asylum seekers to risk and harm if returned to their home countries in the manner proposed by the Federal Government.
- **Lobby local Members of Parliament**
Highlight the fact that most informed Australians have a compassionate and caring attitude towards refugees and advocate that Government policy should reflect this widespread view.
- **Lead a discussion amongst friends and family**
Raise awareness of the realities behind Australia's treatment of asylum seekers and refugees.
- **Become a supporter-member of Justice for Refugees**
Fill out the attached membership form or join online: www.justiceforrefugeessa.org

HOW?

There are more humane and effective ways of addressing the issue of asylum seekers and refugees than the current approach adopted by major political parties in Australia.

Would you like to be part of the solution?

MEMBERSHIP FORM



CONTACT DETAILS

Title Given name

Surname

Organisation
(organisational members only)

Street address

Postcode

Postal address

Postcode

Phone Mobile

Home Work

Email

I heard about **Justice for Refugees SA** through:

Organisations Authorised person for voting purposes:

Name

Signed (Authorised officer)

OPTIONAL DETAILS (Individual membership only)

Year of birth

Occupation

Gender
 Female Male Other

Highest Educational Qualification
 Secondary Tertiary Postgraduate
 Other

Communication Platforms
 Facebook Twitter Email
 Other

This information is collected for J4RSA communication, internal and aggregated reporting purposes and will not be disclosed to third parties.

I WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED

Please select any of the following

Experience in Interest in

Public Speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lobbying Politicians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing Letters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IT/Database Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donor Liaison	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marketing/Promotion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Media Campaigning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other		

MEMBERSHIP AND PAYMENT TYPE

New member Renewing member (2015/16)

Category (please tick one)

Individual

\$50 Waged \$20 Low Wage \$10 Concession

Family \$80

Organisation

\$200 Large \$150 Medium \$100 Small

Donation \$

Total enclosed \$

Cheque Please make cheque out to **Justice for Refugees SA**

Cash

Direct Deposit Please ensure you use your name or org as a reference

Account name Justice for Refugees SA

BSB 105-029 **Account Number** 080102440

I accept and support the aims and objectives of Justice for Refugees SA and agree to pay the membership fee as determined by the organisation. I hereby apply for individual/family/organisational membership.

Signed

Date

Membership fees are for the financial year, renewable on 1st July.

Please tear off and return form to PO Box 6036, Halifax Street, Adelaide 5000 OR scan and email to membership@justiceforrefugeessa.org OR register online.