**Justice for all refugees who were subjected to the “Fast Track” assessment process.**

**DRAFT SAMPLE LETTER** – for maximum impact change the wording to make it a unique letter, and ideally copy also to the Prime Minister using the contact form: <https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

*Your Address*

*Date*

*Recipient Address*

Dear ……………………………

The government’s progress towards establishing the Administrative Review Tribunal is welcome. I hope that the ART will provide a more robust and fairer system to assess claims for refugee status. As Labor acknowledged in its 2019 policy platform, the Fast Track system and IAA ‘does not provide a fair, thorough and robust assessment process for persons seeking asylum’.

However, I am very concerned about the precarious situation of the over 7,000 people in Australia whose claims for asylum were denied under the unfair Fast Track Assessment process. As you know, the initial assessment process is not thorough, there is no effective process for the review of merit of individual claims, and the appeals process through courts is costly, protracted and does not provide any review of merits.

Under Fast Track, people seeking asylum from Afghanistan, Iran and Sri Lanka have been particularly disadvantaged, with much lower rates of protection visas grants under Fast Track. See <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/fast-tracking-statistics/8/> This demonstrates the unfairness of the process, and we know that many people who have been denied protection under the Fast Track process would have been granted refugee protection under a fair assessment system.

I am seeking clarification about your government’s plans for this cohort of people. How will they be provided the opportunity for a fair and robust examination of their claims for refugee protection?

The situation is critical for these people. After more than 10 years in limbo, over 7,000 men, women and children still have no security. Many have been working while living in the community, but some are denied the right to work. This latter group has no access to income support so are at risk of destitution and homelessness. Anxiety and depression are common, and people are at risk of suicide.

I am appalled that your government has introduced the Migration Amendment Bill. If passed, it could see these people criminalised, or deported. I am seeking your assurance that no asylum seekers whose claims for protection have been rejected under the unfair Fast Track process will be subject to any new deportation provisions. Their claims for protection need to be fairly assessed and reviewed, and alternative pathways need to be considered to ensure that families can remain together and rebuild their lives with confidence in our communities.

Yours sincerely

*Insert your name*