

Stand together for Justice and Kindness

Organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network and supported by:

Academics for Refugees
African Think Tank Inc
africaus Youth and Community Services
Amnesty International Australia
Amnesty International Australia, Bendigo Group
Anakbayan Melbourne
ANMF Victorian Branch
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce
Australian Refugee Action Network
Australian Unions for Western Sahara
Australian Western Sahara Association
Back Your Neighbour Campaign
Bayan Australia
Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association
Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project
Brunswick Uniting Church Council
CaseyCardinia for Refugees
Catholic Social Services Victoria
Combined Refugee Action Group
ETHOS Centre For Christianity & Society
Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria – ECCV
Faith Communities Council of Victoria
Free Palestine Melbourne
Freedom Socialist Party
Gabriela Australia
Grandmothers for Refugees
Grandmothers for Refugees – Bendigo
HACSU – Health and Community Services Union
Iranian Women's Association
Islamic Council of Victoria
Jesuit Social Services / CAPSA
Jews For Refugees
Justice and Freedom for Ceylon Tamils
Kommonground Inc.
Labor for Refugees
Liberty Victoria
Local Government Mayoral Taskforce
Supporting People Seeking Asylum
Love Makes A Way
Melbourne City Churches In Action – MCCIA
Melbourne Eritrean United Community

Merri-bek City Council
Migrante Australia
Migrante Melbourne
Missionary Sisters of Service
Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group
Mums for Refugees
National Amnesty Refugee Network – NARN
NTEU – National Tertiary Education Union, Victorian Division
Northsiders with Refugees
Pax Christi Victoria
Philippine Caucus for Peace
Philippines Australia Solidarity Association – PASA
Quakers Victoria (Religious Society of Friends)
Radical Women
Refugee Action Collective – RAC Vic
Refugee Advocacy Network
Refugee Council of Australia
Refugee Legal
Rural Australians for Refugees – National
Rural Australians for Refugees – Apollo Bay
Rural Australians for Refugees – Ballarat
Rural Australians for Refugees – Bendigo
Rural Australians for Refugees – Castlemaine
Rural Australians for Refugees – Macedon Ranges
Rural Australians for Refugees – Mansfield
Rural Australians for Refugees – Queenscliff
Rural Australians for Refugees – South Gippsland
Rural Australians for Refugees – Trentham
Sisters of the Good Samaritan
Social Responsibilities Committee, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
Solidarity with Asylum Seekers in Australia
St Paul's Cathedral
The Salvation Army Australia Territory
Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
Uniting Vic.Tas
Victorian Council of Churches
Victorian Trades Hall Council
Xavier Social Justice Network
Yarra City Council
Young Mercy Links Victoria



Stand together for JUSTICE and KINDNESS



**1pm - Meet on Princes
Bridge for the walk to
Tom's Block St Kilda Road
opposite Victorian College of the Arts**



#justice4refugees
#PermanentVisas

Enquiries: info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au

**Palm
Sunday
13 April
2025**

- 1pm** Gather on Princes Bridge with Riff Raff Marching Band.
- 1.45pm** Arrive at Tom's Block. (Bring a picnic rug or chair)
- 2 - 3pm** Program of speakers and music with **MC Tom Ballard** and guest **Gillian Triggs AC**. Refugee speakers and musicians, faith representatives. Melbourne Mass Gospel Choir.
- 3 - 3.45** Music continues, info and activities with refugee community and advocacy groups.

Everyone is welcome

Fair Go for Refugees

Stand together for JUSTICE AND KINDNESS on Palm Sunday

Embrace and
celebrate our
differences.

Join together
for a welcoming
and fairer
Australia.

Be kind. Say
NO to all cruelty
and injustice.

Stand up for
freedom and
peace.

Love, not hate.
Peace, not war.



For decades Palm Sunday actions have called for peace and justice.

Plan to join us in this important election year to show that you will Stand Up for Justice and Kindness.

The great civil rights campaigner *Cornell West* said:

***“Justice is
what love looks like
in public”.***

Now, more than ever, we need to speak up for justice and compassion to counter divisive and hurtful sentiments in public discourse.

Across the world governments are abandoning the social contract, reducing government services and leaving the poor and disenfranchised to struggle.

This is not the Australia we were promised.

**We must stand up for kindness
and fair social policies.
Compromising
on human rights for some
makes us all
vulnerable to abuse.**

**Refugee Rights are
Human Rights.
Bring back justice and
fairness for refugees.**

Australia's commitment to a 'Fair Go' is being betrayed by the cruel and inhumane refugee policies of both major political parties.

We must take action to end the suffering of refugees and asylum seekers.

> **People must not be left in limbo for years - permanent visas for all refugees.**

> **Rights-based processes to assess refugee status – not political expedience.**

> **Families need to be together – not separated for years.**

> **People need the right to work and study, access to Medicare, and basic income.**

> **Welcome the stranger – educate on the right to seek asylum.**

There have been some positive changes under the Labor Government, including permanent visas for those on TPVs and SHEVs, the release of many people from detention, and the reintroduction of a more thorough and fairer assessment process for asylum claims.

However, there are still a number of serious injustices and cruel policies in place.

> **Around 8,000 people have been in visas limbo** for more than 12 years under the so-called 'Fast Track' process, living on bridging visas. Some have no work or study rights, none has the right to income support and none has travel rights. Many live in poverty and rely on charity, and none can travel to see family and loved ones left behind.

> Two years on from the policy announcement, around 1,000 people on TPVs and SHEVs **are still waiting for their permanent visas**

> Around 1,000 people previously held in detention on Nauru and in PNG still only have **short-term Bridging Visas**, and no certainty about their future – still in limbo after 12 years

> **Around 40 men are in limbo in Port Moresby.** They have been there for more than 11 long years. While some have prospects for resettlement in Candan or NZ, many have no resettlement options. For more than 12 months the UNHCR has been saying that 10 of the men need urgent medical evacuation to Australia for treatment of severe mental health issues.

> Under Labor the quota for refugees has been raised to 20,000. This is a small number for Australia, given Labor shortages etc.

We can easily do more. If elected, the Coalition intends to reduce the intake of refugees.