



**RALLY and  
MARCH**

Close Manus  
Close Nauru

**welcome  
refugees**  
peace no racism

**1PM SUNDAY 19 APRIL**  
**BELMORE PARK near Central station**

For further information phone Ian Rintoul on 0417 275 713,  
Peter Murphy 0418 312 301 or Penny Howard 0402 355 205.  
Rally info [bit.ly/RefugeeRally2015](http://bit.ly/RefugeeRally2015) Close Manus & Nauru petition [bit.ly/GetUpPetition](http://bit.ly/GetUpPetition)



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When the UN Committee Against Torture criticised Australian government policies of mandatory detention and offshore processing, Tony Abbott declared, “I really think Australians are sick of being lectured to by the United Nations...”

But the UN Committee was criticising government policy, not “Australians”.

When “The Forgotten Children”, the Australian Human Rights Commission’s report into children in detention, was finally tabled, Prime Minister Abbott didn’t deny the substance of the report, but fumed that “the Human Rights Commission should be ashamed of itself”. When asked whether he felt any guilt at the mistreatment of children, he replied, “None whatsoever.” The Coalition embarked on a campaign to discredit Gillian Triggs, the president of the Human Rights Commission.

Tony Abbott won’t respond to the substance of the Human Rights report because he can’t. Immigration Minister Scott Morrison even told the inquiry that the government’s policy of offshore processing took priority over any obligations it had to the rights of children. Who is out of step? Make up your own mind.

1. The Refugee Convention says in Article 31 that governments should not discriminate against “refugees who, coming directly from a territory where

their life or freedom was threatened... enter or are present in their territory without authorization”. Under Australia’s Migration Act it is not a crime to arrive by boat or otherwise and seek asylum.

2. Australian Human Rights Commission report “The Forgotten Children”: “No other country mandates the closed and indefinite detention of children when they arrive”. “It is of profound concern that the Government has recently introduced amendments to the Migration Act to redefine the definition of ‘refugee’ to meet government policy rather than international law...[This] will be a rare and internationally embarrassing instance in which Australia has explicitly declared that its laws remain valid, even if they violate international law.”

3. UN Committee against Torture: “The government of Australia, by failing to provide adequate detention conditions; end the practice of detention of children; and put a stop to the escalating violence and tension at the regional processing centre, has violated the right of the asylum seekers including children to be free from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment”. Join this year’s “Welcome Refugees” rally to send a message to both main political parties – Australia needs a humanitarian refugee policy.

Arab Council Australia; Asylum Seekers Centre; Australian Kurdish Association—Sydney; Australian Progressives; Australian Tamil Congress; Benedictine Abbey, Jamberoo; Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group; Bosco Social Justice Group Engadine; Cana Communities; Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes (NSW); Carmelite JPIC; Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay; Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace; ChilOut; Columban Mission Institute; CPA (M-L); Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education; Evatt foundation; GetUp; Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children; Hazara Youth Perspective Organisation; Independent Education Union; Josephite Justice office; Labor for Refugees (NSW); Marist Asylum-Seeker Refugee Service; Maritime Union of Australia; Mercy Sisters (Parramatta Province); Metropolitan Community Church; Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace Centre; Mums 4 Refugees; National Tertiary Education Union (NSW); National Union of Workers (General branch); NSW Ecumenical Council; NSW Ecumenical Council Council Peace and Justice Commission; NSW Greens; NSW Nurses and Midwives Association; NSW Teachers Federation; Pax Christi Australia (NSW); Presentation Sisters (Wagga); Refugee Action Coalition; Refugee Council of Australia; Search Foundation; Socialist Alliance; Solidarity; Sydney Peace & Justice Coalition; The Grail (NSW/ACT); Unions for Refugees; Unions NSW; Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom; Women and the Australian church

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