



NEWSLETTER December 2021

*Peace on earth and goodwill to all*



Robyn Flittner, Basireh Azizi and Christine Walker are friends formed through a support group for Hazara refugee women. (ABC News: Piia Wirsu)



### Dear Grandmothers and Friends

The end of a year calls for review and reflection. Please enjoy this wrap-up of what has been our shared focus in 2021.

A new year calls for rest and recovery. Please stay with us in 2022 as there is so much more to do.

Visit our website today [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org)

## Sending Christmas messages from the inside



**“Hon Karen Andrews  
We implore you to release us.  
We are human beings like you”**

**“9 years 2 long”**

**Grandmothers keeping Sunday vigil at the Park Prison Hotel are still asking the question for which there is no answer from anyone in Home Affairs or the Coalition Government.**



Here we go a-vigiling....



Our membership is at nearly 1,800 Grandmothers and FROGS. Sadly, some of our members have become unwell or have died. But there has been a steady number of new member requests throughout the year. These noticeably occur more frequently after major campaigns or rallies.



I would like to join the group at Katie Allen's office in Malvern. I think they hold a vigil every Monday there.

Many thanks.  
Kathleen M

Welcome to you, Kathleen, and to all those who have joined G4R in 2021.

Visit our website today [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org)



The new group formed in **Chisholm** (Victoria's most marginal seat) is being supported by members from other safe electorates who connect through the new **G4R Flying Squad WhatsApp group**.

### ***Our lovely new banner in Flinders – Candace***

We used it at our meeting in the park last week. An Afghan woman who just happened to be in the Park was attracted by the banner and came and spoke with us.

She was a refugee who had come to Australia in 2010. She is a nurse and worked in an NGO in Kabul. She married and now has a child. She spoke of the difficulties and mental illness of many Afghan refugees. She said she was Christian and her church in Dandenong was very supportive of many. She described how Afghans love picnics and those living in the cities go to country areas for picnics. We thought this may be something to do next year.

She quoted an Afghan saying '***When there is hope there is life***'.





The creative **Goldstein Grandmothers** had an eye for the local closing down sales when sending their message to their local MP Tim Wilson. Refugees stay! Wilson must go!!



The group in **Wills** has been keeping up their vigil on a weekly basis for more than 6 years, limited only by Covid restrictions and days of extreme heat. Other stalwarts are **Cooper**, and outer urban **Casey** where Grandmothers for Refugees marked Human Rights Day on Dec 10.



### Staying informed and connected

Our membership has been kept informed in 2021 by **eleven newsletters** and **regular updates on our website**. Five different **flyers** have been produced and distributed and up to 20,000 **Morrison Government Report Cards** are in circulation.

We have increased the G4R **social media presence**. We have an active Facebook page providing refugee news almost on a daily basis. Thousands of people have viewed and commented on the posts. We have posted comments and photos on Twitter throughout the year with some going viral to the extent of 30,000 views. We now have nearly 1,000 Twitter followers. We have established an Instagram account where we post telling photos of our activities. It has over 200 followers.

Visit our website today [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org)

## Looking ahead to 2022

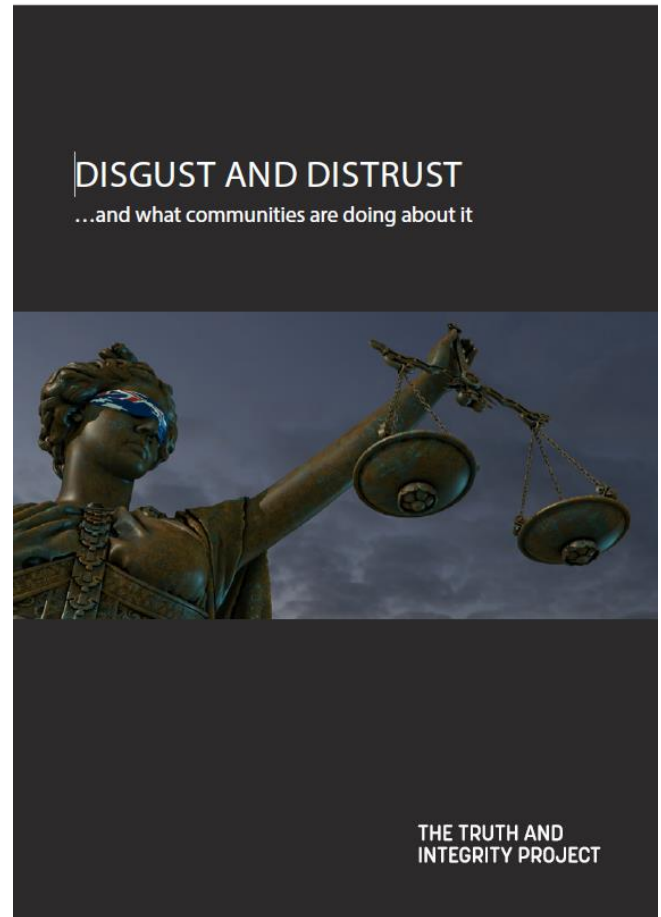
**AUSTRALIAN POLITICS  
HAS NEVER BEEN PERFECT  
BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN  
WORSE THAN UNDER  
THE MORRISON GOVERNMENT**

Failures in trust, integrity, accountability, and honesty have all contributed to the cruel policy and inhuman treatment of refugees by successive Australian Governments over two decades.

The Truth and Integrity Project is a totally voluntary not-for-profit organisation dedicated to:

- Mobilising Australians who are angry, concerned and disgusted with the state of Australian politics and government.
- Highlighting major policy failures in areas such as climate change, economic management and inequality.
- Raising awareness of corruption in Australian politics.
- Challenging the dramatic decline in the quality of political debate and discourse.

The Truth and Integrity Project aims to reach out to all Australians – whatever their differences – to promote a successful Australia where truth, integrity, policy and decency are the core of politics. Read all about it here: [The Truth and Integrity Project | Home](#)



## GRANDMOTHERS SAY...#voteforbetter... #voteforchange

**MORRISON GOVERNMENT  
REPORT CARD**

**FAIL**

“Could have done (so much) better”

- ✗ Refugees
- ✗ Climate action
- ✗ Our environment
- ✗ First nations people
- ✗ Women’s safety
- ✗ Government accountability
- ✗ Government transparency

Make a difference at the coming Federal election!

Vote for **BETTER**

Vote for **CHANGE**

Grandmothers for Refugees is a grass roots movement that advocates for compassionate welcome and safe settlement of people seeking asylum.

We work for a reset of Australia’s refugee policy to provide welcome, enduring protection, and safe settlement for all people seeking asylum.

We want >>

- >> Immediate release from detention of all refugees and people seeking asylum.
- >> An end to mandatory detention, both onshore and offshore.
- >> Rights to permanent protection ending all forms of temporary visas for refugees.
- >> Appropriate support for all refugees, people seeking asylum and their families.
- >> Policies which assist refugees to reunite with their families.

[www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org)

Authorised by J Ker Walsh 73 Duke Street Richmond 3121

## G4R wants to connect with first-time voters. Any ideas?

- Refugees
- Climate action
- Our environment
- First nations people
- Women's safety
- Government accountability
- Government transparency

Grandmothers and Frogs may have young people in their lives who will be voting for the first time in 2022.

**We are interested in your ideas on how to connect with first-time voters around the issues affecting refugees.**

If you have ideas on how we can target our messaging so that young people can see the connections between the treatment of refugees and the other issues they may care about, then please send us your thoughts in an email [info@grandmothersforrefugees.org](mailto:info@grandmothersforrefugees.org) by **17 January 2022**.

## Ending Indefinite and Arbitrary Immigration Detention Bill 2021

On Thursday, 24 June 2021, the *Ending Indefinite and Arbitrary Immigration Detention Bill 2021* was referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration for inquiry and report. Information on the Bill, which was introduced by Andrew Wilkie MP on 22 February 2021, can be found at this [link](#) or [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Migration](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Migration) .



(The video recording of Mr Wilkie's second Reading speech in the Parliament is available here: <https://youtu.be/2JMc65T8Tzg>)

**While the Bill has been removed from the House of Representatives Notice Paper, the Committee's inquiry remains active.**

The **Committee is currently accepting submissions** to this inquiry. **Submissions should be provided no later than close of business 28 January 2022**. For information on how to make a submission, go to the [Making a Submission](#) page.

**Grandmothers for Refugees will be making a submission to this Committee enquiry.**

Visit our website today [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org)

The Executive thanks all those who have contributed to this year of determined effort to secure justice for refugees.

We encourage everyone to rest, enjoy the holiday season and re-energise for our 2022 campaign for the change in refugee policy so urgently needed.

*Season's Greetings to all*

*from*

*Jean, Margaret, Jane, Linda, Gill*

