



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

July 2021

We advocate for all who are punished by Australia's cruel and inhumane treatment of refugees. We are particularly concerned about the impact this has had on those who came here as children or who are still children.



Why not JOIN US?

Membership is free. Friends of Grandmothers (Frogs) are welcome.

Join via our website

www.grandmothersforrefugees.org

Contact us via email

info@grandmothersforrefugees.org

Follow us on



Donations are welcome

We use funds donated for printing and other materials to support our activities.

You can donate by direct funds transfer to our bank account:

Name	Grandmothers for Refugees
BSB	083170
Account	83 813 3480

8 YEARS OF TRAUMA - 8 YEARS OF SHAME

People seeking asylum have been locked up and punished for 8 years!!

The idea was that punishing desperate people who came on boats seeking asylum would send a message to the people smugglers to stop their dirty trade. Punishing the victims of exploitation! What sort of marketing master plan is that?

Since 2013, just 37 boats and an estimated 850 people have allegedly tried to come to Australia. In the meantime, according to a Fact Check using Department of Home Affairs resources, more than 100,000 asylum seekers arrived in Australia by plane and, quite rightly, have been allowed to work and live freely in the community.

Both major political parties are to blame. During those 8 years, thousands of innocent victims of torture and persecution in their home countries have been ground down by hopelessness inflicted by a deliberately cruel refugee policy.

IT IS NOT ILLEGAL to be a refugee.

INDEFINITE DETENTION of people fleeing to safety IS NOT A SOLUTION.

CRUELTY done to others to make Australians feel safe IS INHUMANE.

8 years of trauma for them is enough

They have given enough to sell the Operation Sovereign Borders Campaign.

It's time now to set them free.

8 years of shame for us is enough

We have given up enough of our humanity and decency.

It's time to reclaim our national pride.

FOLLOW THE TRAIL THROUGH 8 YEARS OF TRAUMA AND SHAME

19 July 2013 PM Kevin Rudd announces anyone who comes by boat to seek asylum will “never, ever” be settled in Australia. Deal done to send them to Manus Island, PNG.

August 2013 Deal done to send boat arrivals to Nauru.

7 September 2013 Abbott Government elected. Scott Morrison becomes Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

October 2013 Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) abandoned by Labor are reintroduced as a mechanism to avoid granting permanent protection as set out in the Refugee Convention to which Australia is a signatory. Offshore detention continues on Christmas Island, Manus Island and Nauru.

April 2014 Numbers of men, women, families and unaccompanied minors reach their peak: 1273 on Manus; 1177 on Nauru. Many recognised as refugees.

December 2014 Peter Dutton becomes Minister for Immigration and Border Protection (later renamed Home Affairs).

April 2016 Coalition government continues to reject the 2013 offer made by New Zealand to take 150 refugees each year, citing New Zealand as a back door for entry to Australia.

November 2016 PM Turnbull makes a resettlement deal with President Obama for Australia and the US to swap 1200 unwanted refugees.

December 2017 Peter Dutton becomes Minister for Home Affairs.

March 2018 Murugappan family taken from Biloela to detention in Melbourne.

August 2018 Malcolm Turnbull replaced by Scott Morrison as Prime Minister. Five years of misery continues for refugees and people seeking asylum.

November 2018 #KidsoffNauru campaign succeeds at last. PM Morrison again rejects New Zealand offer to take 150 refugees from Australia each year.

February 2019 Medevac legislation passes the Parliament.

March - October 2019 135 people transferred from Nauru and PNG for emergency medical treatment; held in hotels - Mantra, Melbourne and Kangaroo Point, Brisbane - used as “Alternative Places of Detention”.



August 2019 Murugappan family imprisoned on Christmas Island after plane taking them to Sri Lanka is forced by court to land in Darwin.

December 2019 Medevac Bill repealed. Men still in hotel prisons subject to delayed medical care, indefinite detention and many endure months locked in without access to fresh air.

2020 Covid 19 hits. Adds to health risks for refugee and asylum seeker detainees; supporters maintain Covid-restricted protests outside APODs.

September 2020 Government starts releasing people from detention to live on bridging visas but without housing or any safety net income.

December 2020 60+ men moved from Mantra hotel to new Park Hotel prison in Melbourne.

January to April 2021 45 asylum-seeker men released from Park Hotel Prison on Bridging Visas; more transferred in.

June 2021 14 detainees begin hunger strike in Melbourne. Four-year-old old Tharnicaa falls seriously ill on Christmas Island, evacuated to Perth; family reunited with three-month Bridging Visa but unable to go back to Biloela.

**19 JULY 2021 - 8 YEARS ON
AND THE TRAUMA AND SHAME CONTINUES**