



Newsletter March 2020

Dear Grandmothers and Frogs

We hope this finds you safe and well in the unprecedented circumstances generated by the Covid19. It will be challenging for all of us. It will be even more challenging for refugees.

I have no doubt at all that your compassion and concern for refugees and their families is in no way diminished by the social and economic challenges we are facing at this time.

Indeed, it is essential that we continue our efforts to ensure refugees and people seeking asylum are not ignored among the vulnerable. Their special needs and our government's duty of care are heightened rather than reduced by this health threat.

To that end, it is timely that we are able to launch our new website.

Welcome to our NEW!! website www.grandmothersforrefugees.org



Our new website is going to be what connects us and sustains our campaigns in the disrupted months ahead.

- Our executive and planning committee meetings will be held online
- There will be online lobbying, letter writing and awareness campaigns
- We will attend virtual rallies with others – including this Palm Sunday 2020
- We will post breaking news on our website Front page
- There will be expanded information on our News page
- On our Resources page you will find background documents and helpful data
- You can order t-shirts and badges, and download flyers

- We can grow our support base with grandmothers and frogs able to join us via the web page
- Send us feedback or news from your electorate via the Contact us page

In summary...

Grandmothers for Refugees is not hibernating - we are going 'virtual'.

What we have done in cafes, meeting rooms, street pop-ups, vigils and rallies we will do from our kitchen tables. The website will be our point of connection. Treat it as your own special members' 'room'. Add it to your 'favourites' bar so that it is easy to visit. Check for updated news on a regular basis.

Our Newsletters to your Inbox

As a volunteer organisation, we have relied heavily on the talents and time giving of our members. For years, Joan C has maintained our membership lists and sent out our regular newsletters via Gmail... a big task! We are enormously grateful to Joan.

In tandem with the launch of the website, we are shifting to the Mail Chimp system for both registering new members and sending out our newsletters. This will streamline the process and allow you to update details if you change your email address, or move to another electorate or, for personal reason, need to unsubscribe.

Doing things differently

The executive appreciates your patience while we have been working on these changes. They have come to fruition at the best possible time when we are all having to do what we do differently.

Conditions around us are changing. If our commitments to refugees, children and families are changing, it is a change towards greater determination to see the end of mandatory detention. For so many, 7+ years in detention is far too long.

Our goal is the end of mandatory detention. Finding new ways to achieve that end is our current challenge.

Please go to our website to see what you can do. We are in close liaison with others in the refugee support network. As plans develop, we will post them on our website. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Finally...

Thank you again to Julie Cattlin and Joan Cashion who have made outstanding efforts to help bring us to this defining moment for Grandmothers for Refugees.

Keep safe and well, all.

Jean, Jane, Margaret and Mary