



NEWSLETTER November 2021

Dear Grandmothers and Friends,

The Morrison Government has failed refugees. As advocates for refugees, the Morrison Government has failed us.

With a federal election coming, **our priority is to get a change in refugee policy. This means securing a change in government.**

We know from experience that any mention of refugees is a free kick to the government to run their fear messaging. It will not help refugees to make them a top order issue in the election campaign.

We see strategic strength in aligning ourselves with a broader movement coalescing around climate, women, integrity, accountability, and transparency.

When a government like ours FAILS SO BADLY, change is needed to begin to make things better for refugees and for all of us.

In coming months, **the key message we take to our voter communities is about caring enough to choose change.**



Le nonne per i rifugiati
Γιαγιάδες για προσφύγες
难民的祖母
جدات للاجئين

WE ARE READY for CHANGE



A Government Report Card and flyers are among the G4R resources ready to support local electorate campaign plans.

What the G4R strategy now needs is YOU!

Don't be quiet. Don't be invisible. Join us in our **purple campaign for change**. Go to: www.grandmothersforrefugees.com/join-us and we will connect you with your local electorate co-ordinator.

Visit our website today www.grandmothersforrefugees.org

THE PURPLE CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE IS GAINING MOMENTUM

...in **HIGGINS** (Marginal LIB 3.7%) Grandmothers are a familiar sight at Katie Allen's office.



... in **DEAKIN** (Marginal LIB 4.7%)

Former G4R exec member Mary Williams was moved into the Deakin electorate by the recent redistribution of boundaries. Mary is keen to hear from other Grandmothers and Frogs willing to join their local campaign efforts. Contact her through us at info@grandmothersforrefugees.org



...in **GOLDSTEIN** (LIB 7.8%)

Tim Wilson has moved office, so we moved too. Shame the detained refugees can't move! The corflutes looked good on the highway. We had lots of toots including from some ambos who put the lights and siren on for us! And a few truck drivers who sat on their horns!



CHISHOLM (Marginal LIB 0.5%) is where the Morrison Government arguably won the 2019 election when the seat was taken by Gladys Liu on the tiniest of margins. This is a seat where we really want people to think carefully about how their vote matters in 2022.

A re-energised small group of Grandmothers in Chisholm is being supported by the Kooyong and Cooper Grandmothers. But more locals are needed to join in with letterboxing and street vigils. **Contact us through** info@grandmothersforrefugees.org if you can do anything to help in Chisholm.



LOOK OUT FOR US ON SOCIAL MEDIA>>>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GrandmothersforRefugees/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/gmothersadrc/>

Instagram: [Grandmothers4Refugees \(@grandmothers4refugees\)](https://www.instagram.com/grandmothers4refugees/) • Instagram photos and videos

Send us your pics of electorate activities and we will post them on our social media sites. And don't forget to share with your own followers.

Linda Sparrow looks after our Twitter site:

That photo of our Higgins Grandmothers outside the office of Katie Allen yesterday... I posted it this morning on my own Twitter account so it might reach a different audience. It has gone quite wild with over 23,000 views, 265 retweets and 844 'likes'! LS

Visit our website today www.grandmothersforrefugees.org

Supporting one another through The Purple Flying Squad

It is a key element of the G4R election campaign strategy to create a tangible presence in key marginal electorate communities (Chisholm, Higgins, Deakin, Dunkley, Casey, Flinders). This is based on detailed (booth-by-booth) voting analysis of 2019 results adjusted for recent boundary changes. *Thank you, Linda King, (Cooper G4R) for this great work!!*

As the election approaches, many GFR groups - particularly in these marginal electorates – will want to hold **vigils** (at MP offices, shopping centres, markets), do **letter-boxing**, and attend **events** where candidates or MP delegations will be present. On these occasions, local Grandmothers may need extra support to make more of “a splash”. Some events might be at quite short notice and need a rapid response.

Hence the establishment of...**The Purple Flying Squad**.

The Squad will be activated through a “WhatsApp” group of Co-ordinating Committee and/or electorate representatives.

The WhatsApp Flying Squad Group reps will then contact their members known to be willing to respond to a Flying Squad call-out when and if they can!

If you are willing to become a Purple Flying Squad member by making an occasional visit to an electorate needing a numbers boost for vigils, letter-boxing, or events...

- Please indicate your willingness to your Electorate representative *(or send us an email at info@grandmothersforrefugees.org with subject line: [Electorate name] Flying Squad and we will pass on your interest to the right person.)*
 - Provide your representative with your current email address and mobile phone number.
 - Once called out, check the route to destination before you set off to an address new to you and work out how much travel time you will need!
 - Check to see if there is another person in your electorate group who may be glad to join you for the drive and shared activity, especially letter-boxing.
 - For all Flying Squad activities >>> **PURPLE UP!! And enjoy!**
-



The COTA Senior Achiever Awards have been announced, making the **Goldstein Grandmothers for Refugees** very proud of their award-winning member **Brenda Todd, from East Brighton**. Brenda was nominated by ASRC where she has been a volunteer counsellor for eight years. Brenda uses her highly developed skills as a psychologist and psychotherapist to support people seeking asylum, many of whom live with the stress of perpetual uncertainty.

Four more refugees released – now free the rest

Four more refugees were freed in Melbourne on Saturday 13/11/21 - three from the Park Hotel and one from MITA Detention Centre in Broadmeadows.

One of the men, Hamed, a 27-year-old Iranian refugee told the Refugee Action Collective: "I can't explain how I feel. After nine years they've released me, but I still have friends in detention.

"I've got a visa but they don't, and we're like a family, living together for nine years. I spent five and a half years on Nauru and 37 months here.

"You have to keep fighting for the others because nine years is too long."

Hamed's family has been released in Brisbane, but Australian Border Force has not told him if it will transport him there. "Nothing, they just told me to sign the papers," he said.

Azizi a 36-year-old Afghan refugee said "More than 8 years I was in detention, today I am free. I am very happy.

"I'm happy for myself because I have freedom, but I'm very sad for my friends still in detention. It's very hard for them, because it's a long time. I ask please help take them out from detention, it's enough, more than eight years enough".

Chris Breen from RAC said the Coalition government had not given reasons for the four refugees' release.

"Hamed, Azizi and the other men have been told they have just three weeks accommodation and then they are on their own. They have no money and have just been given \$100 Woolworths vouchers with no explanation of how or where to use them," Chris said.



"It's great to see these men walk free today. But every refugee in detention should be freed immediately," he added.

Ahmad Hakim, CEO of Refugee Voices, responded to the release of the men with a call for funding support.

He said Scott Morrison and Karen Andrews refuse to provide the necessary support the men need to have a home and to heal. "We are aiming to raise \$1000 for each man. **Can you chip in \$20 and be a part of supporting these men to rebuild their lives?**" Ahmad said in a message to the refugee support network.

"We must also remember those still held in detention. The fight continues to free all the refugees!"

To support the Refugee Voices appeal, follow the link here: [Donate](#)

AN INVITATION TO GRANDMOTHERS FROM DAVID MANNE

Dear Grandmothers,

Covid has again prevented us from planning an in-person event for our supporters this year.

I'd be delighted if you could join us for **Refugee Legal's 'Not the Annual Dinner'** to be held online this year on **Thursday 25 November 2021**.

We are honoured to have **Nyadol Nyuon** to deliver the keynote address this year. Nyadol is a lawyer, community advocate, writer, and accomplished public speaker. She is a vocal advocate for human rights, multiculturalism, the settlement of people with refugee experiences and those seeking asylum. She has worked and volunteered extensively in these areas with a range of organisations.

The MC for the night is **Tom Ballard**. Tom is an award-winning stand-up comedian, actor, writer and broadcaster – and longstanding Refugee Legal Ambassador.

Not the Annual Dinner details:

- **Date:** Thursday 25 November 2021
- **Time:** 7.00pm sharp to 8.30pm
- **Online event**
- **Tickets:** \$0 to \$150 (incl. GST)

With the impact of COVID-19, and many people being hit very hard, ticket prices are based on a flexible and inclusive **'Pay What You Can'** model. If you can buy a ticket, there are options from \$10 to \$150. If you can't, please book a free ticket.

Bookings at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BVEWX>

Regards, **David**

Refugee Legal:
Defending the rights
of refugees.



Nyadol Nyuon

GOVERNMENT SPENDS \$350,000 PER MONTH TO KEEP EACH REFUGEE ON NAURU

The cost to Australian taxpayers to hold a single refugee on Nauru has escalated tenfold to more than \$350,000 every month – or \$4.3m a year – as the government refuses to reveal where nearly \$400m spent on offshore processing on the island has gone.

Australia currently pays about \$40m a month to run its offshore processing regime on Nauru, an amount almost identical to 2016 when there were nearly 10 times as many people held on the island.

No refugees and asylum seekers have been sent to Nauru since 2014, and with numbers of refugees held there dwindling – through resettlement to the US, transfer to Australia for acute medical care, abandonment of a protection claim, or death – the cost to Australia to hold each person has increased dramatically.

In May 2016, Australia held 1,193 people on Nauru at a cost of \$45,347 a month per person – about \$1,460 a day or \$534,000 a year.

By August 2021, the number of asylum seekers and refugees held on the island had fallen nearly tenfold, but the costs of running the offshore program remained broadly static. In that month, there were 107 refugees and asylum seekers on Nauru at a cost to taxpayers of \$464,486 a month for each person, or more than \$15,000 a day.

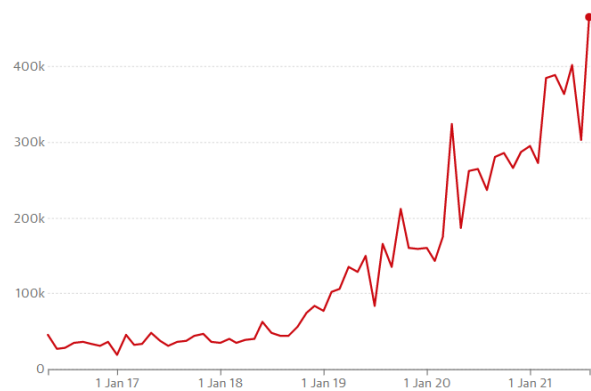
The average monthly cost in 2021 is \$358,646 for every refugee and asylum seeker held on the island, equal to \$4.3m per person each year, a Guardian Australia analysis of government figures provided to the Senate shows.

The majority – 78 of those people – are refugees whose claims for protection have been formally recognised and Australia is legally obliged to protect them. Others are still awaiting a final refugee status determination or have had their claim rejected.

MONTHLY COST OF RUNNING AUSTRALIA'S OFFSHORE PROCESSING OPERATIONS ON NAURU, PER PERSON

Showing the monthly cost to Australian taxpayers of providing 'garrison and welfare services' for refugees and asylum seekers on Nauru, divided by the number of people held by Australia on the island

● Cost per person per month, AU\$



Guardian graphic | Source: Senate questions on notice 2992, 2996, 4116 and 4121

The Morrison government has declined to tell the Senate to whom it has paid nearly \$400m to help run the regime on Nauru. Responses to Senate questions on notice show that from November 2017 to January 2021, the Australian government spent more than \$1.67bn on "garrison and welfare" for those held on the island.

The vast majority of that – **nearly \$1.3bn – was paid to** its three "primary entities": construction and facilities management firm **Canstruct International**; healthcare provider International Health and Medical Services (**IHMS**); and the **government of Nauru**.

Read this article in full here: [Cost of Australia holding each refugee on Nauru balloons to \\$4.3m a year | Australia news | The Guardian](#)

Gone missing in the COP debate...How **climate change exacerbates the refugee crisis** – and what can be done about it

As more people flee violence, insecurity and the effects of climate change, the number forcibly displaced now exceeds 84 million globally, according to new data released on Thursday by the UN refugee agency, UNHCR.

There is a clear protection gap with regard to 'climate refugees', who are neither clearly defined as a category nor covered by the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (the 1951 Refugee Convention).

By 2050, climate change is expected to displace an additional 86 million people in sub-Saharan Africa alone.

The concept of 'climate refugee': Towards a possible definition

According to statistics published by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, **since 2008 over 318 million people around the world have been forcibly displaced by floods, windstorms, earthquakes or droughts, 30.7 million in 2020 alone. This is equivalent to one person being displaced every second.**

Depending on the frequency and scale of the major natural disasters occurring, there are significant fluctuations in the total number of displaced people from one year to the next, yet the trend over recent decades has been a growing one. Many find refuge within their own country, but some are forced to go abroad. In the summer of 2021, Europe witnessed heavy and unprecedented flooding, particularly in Belgium and Germany, and heat domes in the Mediterranean region. Scientists relate this directly to climate change. **All things considered, the number of 'climate refugees' looks set to rise. So far, the national and international response to this challenge has been limited, and protection for the people affected remains inadequate.** What adds further to the gap in protection of such people – who are often described as 'climate refugees' – is that there is neither a clear definition of this category of people, nor are they covered by the 1951 Refugee Convention. The latter extends only to people who have a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, and who are unable or unwilling to seek protection from their home countries. While the EU has not so far recognised climate refugees formally, it has expressed growing concern and has taken action to support the countries potentially affected by climate-related stress and help them develop.

resilience. This **October 2021** briefing is an update of an earlier one from January 2019.

[The concept of 'climate refugee': Towards a possible definition - Think Tank \(europa.eu\)](#)

G4R face masks for sale NOW!!

Let them see it on your face that you stand with refugees.

Our masks are custom printed, comfortable to wear, with good face coverage.

- \$12 each or
- \$10 each in packs of 10.

Order direct from Grandmothers:

[>>> Email your order here](#)

• **Pay by EFT** to the Grandmothers' bank account:

Name: Grandmothers for Refugees

BSB: 083170

Account Number: 83 813 3480



Even though Covid restrictions have eased, varying the circumstances where face masks are required, our branded masks are a great way of grabbing attention for refugees.

So don't give up your face masks too soon. Make sure the people who see you in the supermarket, on the streets, and on public transport are prompted to think about those hidden away, the forgotten refugees.

Let others see it on *your* face that you care for refugees

Totes and Tees still on sale... and still earning donations for us, thanks to our generous supplier at DasTshirtAutomat.com



Our website is the best way to place your order. Go to www.grandmothersforrefugees.org and scroll down on the Front Page... [or click here.](#)

Grandmothers for Refugees advocates for compassionate welcome and safe settlement of all people seeking asylum. For every tee purchased, Das T-Shirt Automat will donate \$18 to Grandmothers for Refugees and \$9 for every tote.



Grandmothers For Refugees Tote
\$25



Grandmothers For Refugees Tee
\$40

Visit our website today www.grandmothersforrefugees.org

MORRISON GOVERNMENT

REPORT CARD

FAIL

"Could have done (so much) better"

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

Make a difference at the coming Federal election!

Vote for

✓ **BETTER**

Vote for

✓ **CHANGE**

Our Government Report Cards are available now for distribution in marginal electorates.

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 >>

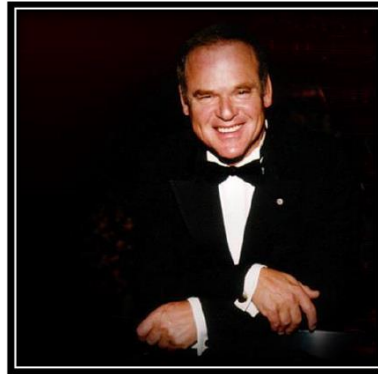
- >> **Immediate release from detention** of all refugees and people seeking asylum.
- >> **An end to mandatory detention**, both onshore and offshore.
- >> **Rights to permanent protection** ending all forms of temporary visas for refugees.
- >> **Appropriate support** for all refugees, people seeking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

www.grandmothersforrefugees.org

Authorised by J Ker Walsh 73 Duke Street Richmond 3121

INVITATION

PIANO RECITAL for REFUGEES



SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER

6:40 for 7pm start
UNITING CHURCH
SANCTUARY
Cnr Burke Rd.
& Coppin St.
MALVERN EAST

Bookings Essential
Via trybooking
Or Ph. 0421 385 534
Tickets: \$50.
P/Con: \$40.
Student: \$30.

PRESENTED BY HIGGINS GRANDMOTHERS FOR REFUGEES

Raising funds for Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

ONLINE BOOKINGS

www.trybooking.com/events/landing/832159

ENQUIRIES & PHONE BOOKINGS 0421 385 534

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Despite Covid and the many days of restrictions on mobility in 2021, this has been a busy and productive 12 months for our movement. Until we wrap up the year in the December edition of the G4R Newsletter, best wishes from us at "Grandmothers Central".

Jean, Margaret, Jane, Linda and Gill

Visit our website today www.grandmothersforrefugees.org