

# Stand together for Justice and Kindness

Organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network and supported by:

Academics for Refugees  
African Think Tank Inc  
africaus Youth and Community Services  
Amnesty International Australia  
Amnesty International Australia, Bendigo Group  
Anakbayan Melbourne  
ANMF Victorian Branch  
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation  
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre  
Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce  
Australian Refugee Action Network  
Australian Unions for Western Sahara  
Australian Western Sahara Association  
Back Your Neighbour Campaign  
Bayan Australia  
Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association  
Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project  
Brunswick Uniting Church Council  
CaseyCardinia for Refugees  
Catholic Social Services Victoria  
Combined Refugee Action Group  
ETHOS Centre For Christianity & Society  
Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria – ECCV  
Faith Communities Council of Victoria  
Free Palestine Melbourne  
Freedom Socialist Party  
Gabriela Australia  
Grandmothers for Refugees  
Grandmothers for Refugees – Bendigo  
HACSU – Health and Community Services Union  
Iranian Women's Association  
Islamic Council of Victoria  
Jesuit Social Services / CAPSA  
Jews For Refugees  
Justice and Freedom for Ceylon Tamils  
Kommonground Inc.  
Labor for Refugees  
Liberty Victoria  
Local Government Mayoral Taskforce  
Supporting People Seeking Asylum  
Love Makes A Way  
Melbourne City Churches In Action – MCCA  
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Merri-bek City Council  
Migrante Australia  
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Missionary Sisters of Service  
Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group  
Mums for Refugees  
National Amnesty Refugee Network – NARN  
NTEU – National Tertiary Education Union, Victorian Division  
Northsiders with Refugees  
Pax Christi Victoria  
Philippine Caucus for Peace  
Philippines Australia Solidarity Association – PASA  
Quakers Victoria (Religious Society of Friends)  
Radical Women  
Refugee Action Collective – RAC Vic  
Refugee Advocacy Network  
Refugee Council of Australia  
Refugee Legal  
Rural Australians for Refugees – National  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Apollo Bay  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Ballarat  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Bendigo  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Castlemaine  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Macedon Ranges  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Mansfield  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Queenscliff  
Rural Australians for Refugees – South Gippsland  
Rural Australians for Refugees – Trentham  
Sisters of the Good Samaritan  
Social Responsibilities Committee, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne  
Solidarity with Asylum Seekers in Australia  
St Paul's Cathedral  
The Salvation Army Australia Territory  
Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania  
Uniting Vic.Tas  
Victorian Council of Churches  
Victorian Trades Hall Council  
Xavier Social Justice Network  
Yarra City Council  
Young Mercy Links Victoria



# Stand together for JUSTICE and KINDNESS



**1pm - Meet on Princes  
Bridge for the walk to  
Tom's Block St Kilda Road  
opposite Victorian College of the Arts**



#justice4refugees  
#PermanentVisas

Enquiries: [info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au](mailto:info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au)

**Palm  
Sunday  
13 April  
2025**

- 1pm** Gather on Princes Bridge with Riff Raff Marching Band.
- 1.45pm** Arrive at Tom's Block. (Bring a picnic rug or chair)
- 2 - 3pm** Program of speakers and music with **MC Tom Ballard** and guest **Gillian Triggs AC**. Refugee speakers and musicians, faith representatives. Melbourne Mass Gospel Choir.
- 3 - 3.45** Music continues, info and activities with refugee community and advocacy groups.

**Everyone is welcome**

**Fair Go for Refugees**

# Stand together for JUSTICE AND KINDNESS on Palm Sunday

Embrace and  
celebrate our  
differences.

Join together  
for a welcoming  
and fairer  
Australia.

Be kind. Say  
NO to all cruelty  
and injustice.

Stand up for  
freedom and  
peace.

Love, not hate.  
Peace, not war.



For decades Palm Sunday actions have called for peace and justice.

**Plan to join us in this important election year to show that you will Stand Up for Justice and Kindness.**

The great civil rights campaigner *Cornell West* said:

***“Justice is  
what love looks like  
in public”.***

Now, more than ever, we need to speak up for justice and compassion to counter divisive and hurtful sentiments in public discourse.

Across the world governments are abandoning the social contract, reducing government services and leaving the poor and disenfranchised to struggle.

**This is not the Australia we were promised.**

**We must stand up for kindness  
and fair social policies.  
Compromising  
on human rights for some  
makes us all  
vulnerable to abuse.**

**Refugee Rights are  
Human Rights.  
Bring back justice and  
fairness for refugees.**

Australia's commitment to a 'Fair Go' is being betrayed by the cruel and inhumane refugee policies of both major political parties.

**We must take action to end the suffering of refugees and asylum seekers.**

> **People must not be left in limbo for years - permanent visas for all refugees.**

> **Rights-based processes to assess refugee status – not political expedience.**

> **Families need to be together – not separated for years.**

> **People need the right to work and study, access to Medicare, and basic income.**

> **Welcome the stranger – educate on the right to seek asylum.**

There have been some positive changes under the Labor Government, including permanent visas for those on TPVs and SHEVs, the release of many people from detention, and the reintroduction of a more thorough and fairer assessment process for asylum claims.

**However, there are still a number of serious injustices and cruel policies in place.**

> **Around 8,000 people have been in visas limbo** for more than 12 years under the so-called 'Fast Track' process, living on bridging visas. Some have no work or study rights, none has the right to income support and none has travel rights. Many live in poverty and rely on charity, and none can travel to see family and loved ones left behind.

> Two years on from the policy announcement, around 1,000 people on TPVs and SHEVs **are still waiting for their permanent visas**

> Around 1,000 people previously held in detention on Nauru and in PNG still only have **short-term Bridging Visas**, and no certainty about their future – still in limbo after 12 years

> **Around 40 men are in limbo in Port Moresby.** They have been there for more than 11 long years. While some have prospects for resettlement in Candan or NZ, many have no resettlement options. For more than 12 months the UNHCR has been saying that 10 of the men need urgent medical evacuation to Australia for treatment of severe mental health issues.

> Under Labor the quota for refugees has been raised to 20,000. This is a small number for Australia, given Labor shortages etc.

**We can easily do more.** If elected, the Coalition intends to reduce the intake of refugees.