

PLANNING for PALM SUNDAY



Palm Sunday

- We get a big crowd
 - around 8,000 this year
 - previously 10,000 and
 - About 15,000 in 2015
- We attract a lot of people who do not usually turn out for protest rallies
- Lots of different groups might travel up to 4 hours to attend

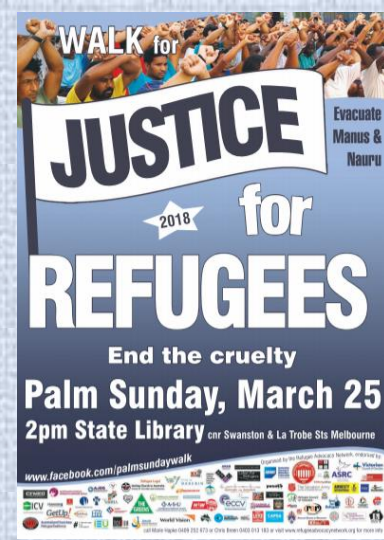
The message

- Agree on a message that appeals to diverse groups
- We use this each year as key message and lead banner
- Additional messaging depends on current issues



Banners, posters, leaflets & props

- We invite people with a public profile to carry the banner
- We produce a colour poster and leaflet
- Leaflet has info about the current issues
- Leaflets are handed out at railway stations and distributed widely
- We do some props and others do too



Interfaith communities



- Engage with interfaith communities
- In Victoria, people practice more than 130 different faiths
- St Patricks (Catholic), St Paul's (Anglican), and Wesley churches organise services just prior and then walk through the city to join the Walk for Justice at the State Library



Rev Ian Smith,
Executive Officer
Victorian Council of Churches

As Christians approach this most sacred of seasons of the year, we are again drawn to express the compassion and love demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ at that first Easter.

It's incomprehensible given the personal stories that have come out of Manus and Nauru that our politicians continue to maintain a brutal and antihumanitarian approach to people who are legitimately seeking refuge and our help...

I call people of compassion to continue to stand up and challenge the abhorrent narrative that dehumanises people seeking our help...



Information can be found at www.facebook.com/palmsundaywalk

<http://www.vcc.org.au/>

Lots of music

Music adds to the welcoming atmosphere

A broad range of music appeals to diverse audiences and makes it family friendly.

- Musicians with lived experience as a refugee
- Riff Raff Radical Marching Band
- Drummers
- Melbourne Mass gospel choir



Planning committee

- Start planning from an early date
- Form a planning committee
- Gain leverage by inviting representatives of supportive groups



Speakers

- Invite an experience MC
- Limit the number of speakers
- Include refugee speakers
- Try for a high profile speaker

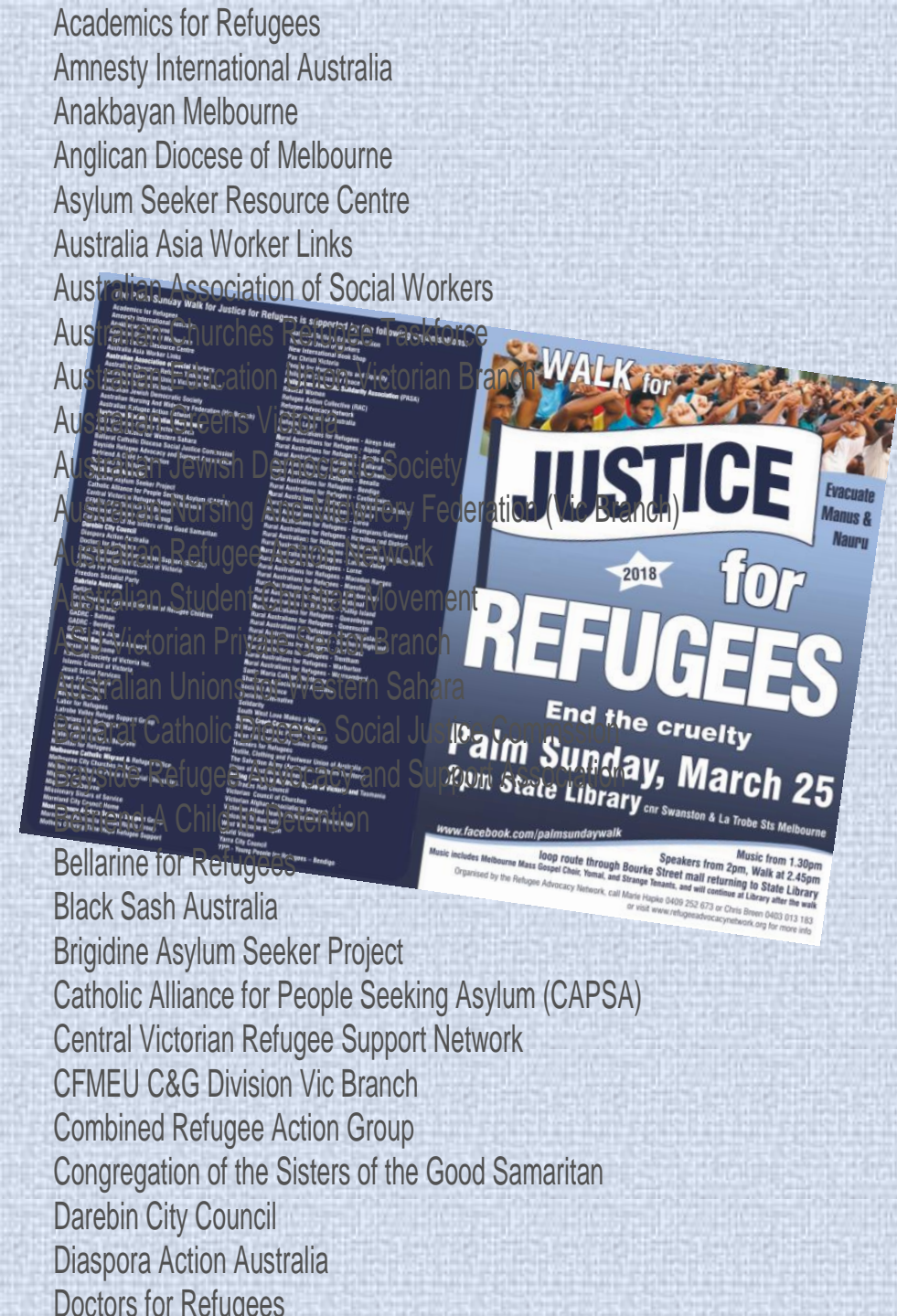


Endorsements

We write to community groups and local councils in Victoria and ask them to:

- endorse the Walk for Justice
- promote it through their networks
- organise to bring their group's banner on the day
- send representatives – or support their local Palm Sunday events

In 2018 around 130 community groups endorsed the Walk for Justice



Endorsements

We invite organisations
and people
with a public profile
to provide a supporting statement

Brian Walters AM QC

Australia receives only a tiny fraction of the world's refugees.

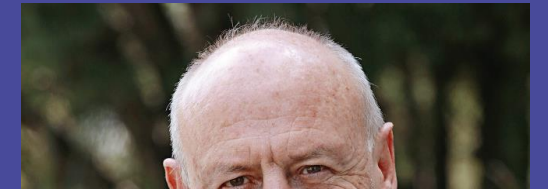
In 1951, Australia was instrumental in developing the Refugee Convention. Now we routinely violate it. We have proclaimed



Message from Tim Costello

Chief Advocate for World Vision Australia

I am speaking for justice on Palm Sunday because like many Australians I want to see an end to offshore detention.



June Factor

Convenor, Befriend a Child in Detention Project

Right now, there are still over 150 child asylum seekers and refugees stranded on Nauru, with no security and an uncertain future.

Since 2014, Befriend a Child in Detention has helped to bring them



**The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe
Dean of Melbourne – St Paul's Cathedral**

For more than a decade, Australia has detained refugees in offshore camps in third nations. We might claim that the Manus



Radical Women

Statement for Walk for Refugees, 25 March

War, persecution and climate change have displaced 65.6 million people. More than 22 million are refugees. The hellholes and dehumanising control they're subjected to show that freedom of movement in this world does not really exist.



Rural Australians for Refugees, Ballarat

Close Australian Refugee Detention Centres, and resettle all refugees into the Australian community or safe third countries immediately.



Goals

Goals from the Walk for Justice are that:

- People are better informed
- People are motivated to act
- People have connected with others who are like-minded
- We have increased our visibility and membership
- We have funds for ongoing actions



Post event actions

To achieve the goals, we need to have at the event:

- Our contact details
- Membership sign-ups (paper and online)
- Upcoming events for them to join in
- Lists of actions they can take away and achieve
- Ability to collect donations



Media

- TV – national and international
- Press - local, national and international
- Radio - local, national and community
- Social media - zines, facebook, twitter, instagram



Support and equipment

- Running sheet - critical
 - Microphone and speakers
 - Podium/stage
 - Seating
 - Shelter from extreme weather
 - Tables
- Volunteers:
 - BEFORE to set up, and
 - AFTER to pack up
 - Other considerations:
 - Water
 - First aid/medic support
 - Marshalls/Security
 - High viz vests
 - Police liaison
 - Rubbish collection

Challenges & dilemmas

- Difficult to get media attention. It is important to maximise social media
- While several unions endorse, the turnout is not particularly strong
- Do we keep the formula the same



2 RIGHT LANE MUST TURN RIGHT

McDOCK

#NO ROOM FOR RACISM

#L THEM STAY

ASIA KISHIKI'S COLLEGE BULLYING

RESETTLING

CLOSE MANUS
NAURU