﻿**Thousands of people seeking refugee protection are still in limbo – and desperate - after 10 years in Australia**

**#justice4refugees #PermanentVisas**

Under what circumstances would you walk to Canberra from Melbourne ? or from Sydney? Or to cycle from Brisbane to Canberra ?

In late 2023 it was the immense frustration of living the last 10 years in limbo that motivated 22 women to make the gruelling trek on foot from Melbourne, 15 women from Sydney, and a young man to cycle from Brisbane to make their case – to tell politicians that it’s time to end the limbo and allow people to get on with building their lives in Australia.

More than 10 years after arriving here to find a safe future around 10,000 people still have no certainty. Many of these people have not seen their children, parents or spouses who remain in danger in places like Iran, Afghanistan and Myanmar. They cannot go back, and Australia has given them no certainty of a future here. All of these people have been subject to the so-called Fast Track assessment process – which is clearly not fast and is deeply flawed as it does not provide for thorough assessment of claims for refugee status.

These people are living on short term Bridging Visas, and some are refused the right to work. Without any income many families are totally reliant on charities, which are stretched to capacity. Many young people have completed their schooling here and are being blocked from continuing in higher education – some are denied the right to enrol, while those who can enrol are unable to pay international student fees.

 *If you have any local stories of people seeking asylum in your community, add something here – perhas including a quote from them (with their permission of course)*

**Palm Sunday is a National Day of Action for Refugee Rights:** “We call on the  Albanese Government to establish a fair and just system for assessing refugee claims. All those who have been living here in limbo for more than 10 years should have the right to settle here with the security of a permanent visa”. *(your spokesperson)*

**Local event details:**

The *(your location)* Palm Sunday action will be *(event details)*

For further information and comment contact: *(your local spokes person )*