



ARAN UPDATE 5 Sept 2018

WHAT'S IN THIS UPDATE ?

KidsOffNauru Campaign – priority campaign

On-going Campaign: SRSS - Cuts to income and housing support for people seeking asylum

Invitation to endorse Resolution on Australian Government's duty of care towards people detention – reply by 20 Sept

Other campaigns:

Australian Government's duty of care to staff and detainees – compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act. (ARAN Conference resolution)

People Just Like Us

RAC(Vic) petition

Other information:

Book by Behrooz Boochani

Request for information from ARAN member Groups

Information about actions you are planning, and afterwards send photos!

Information on lobbying MPs and Senators

Please let us know your contacts for ARAN updates and social media contacts



Priority campaign: #KIDSOFFNAURU

<https://www.kidsoffnauru.com/> You have probably heard about the campaign to get the kids off Nauru in 100 days (by 20 November). Yes, this is ambitious, but with groups and advocates all around Australia making this a priority campaign it might just be possible. ARAN committee is suggesting that ARAN member groups make this a priority campaign and you will find lots of information and current news reports at

<https://australianrefugeeactionnetwork.wordpress.com/kidsoffnauru/>

- 1. Sign on as a supporter of the campaign** <https://www.kidsoffnauru.com/join-the-call/>
- 2. Encourage your members to write letters and/or email** the Prime Minister, Hon Scott Morrison, Hon David Coleman (new Minister for Immigration), Hon Peter Dutton (Minister for Home Affairs) Hon Bill Shorten, Hon Tanya Plibersek, and Hon Shayne Neumann (Shadow Minister for Immigration)
- 3. Organise actions in public places or at your MP's office** and invite members of the public to sign postcards. Postcards ready to print: [Prime Minister Morrison](#), [Peter Dutton](#), [David Coleman](#), [Bill Shorten](#), [Tanya Plibersek](#), and [Shayne Neumann](#)

4. Plan in advance to do an action on or around International Children's Day on Weds 24 October. ARAN is calling for a Day of National Action and will provide suggestions for actions in the next Update.

New Report on Nauru released 3 September by RCOA and ASRC: [You can read the full report here](#). Coverage by ABC radio [here](#): - 'Australia's Man Made Crisis on Nauru Six Years On', calls for 109 children and their families to be brought to Australia without delay. "We have never seen a policy so cruel, so damaging and so absolutely unnecessary. Offshore detention will be remembered in Australia's history as a moment of utter darkness" (Dr Joyce Chia, Director of Policy, RCOA). Keep up the pressure on Parliament to evacuate all children and the families off Nauru to Australia for urgent care and medical treatment, share the report on [Facebook](#) and [Tweet](#) using both hashtags: #KidsOffNauru #EvacuateNow.

'Resignation syndrome' plagues refugee kids (from The Saturday Paper 14 August 2018)

[Refugee and asylum seeker children held in immigration detention are increasingly suffering from a rare syndrome associated with lengthy confinement](#). Speaking to BuzzFeed Australia, an unnamed health professional recently on Nauru said children with the condition "take to their beds and they stop eating, stop drinking, stop toileting themselves, stop talking ... it's like when you visit a hospice and you watch people who are dying in a hospice". Child psychologist Louise Newman said resignation syndrome – a condition diagnosed in hundreds of refugee children slated for deportation in Sweden in 2017 – was "a form of escape or dissociation; they go into a state where they look semiconscious". At least nine legal challenges brought against the federal government by human rights groups this year have resulted in judges ordering immigration authorities to fly seriously ill detention centre detainees to Australia for treatment.

More resources: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/04/03/the-trauma-of-facing-deportation>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/13/court-orders-nauru-refugee-and-son-both-ill-to-be-flown-to-australia>



Shopping Centre PopUp – Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children – Bendigo

CONTINUING CAMPAIGN on the cuts to income and housing support for people seeking asylum (SRSS)

We must continue to demand that income support and access to housing for people seeking asylum be maintained – and restored to those who have already lost this support.

ARAN is asking all members to

- * **call and email the PM, Minister Dutton, your MP and Coalition MPs**(see details above)
- * Write letters to newspapers, and share on social media.
- * Plan actions at MP's offices. Key messages: STOP the cruelty – Restore SRSS Fair Go for Refugees – Restore SRSS Dignity not Destitution– Restore SRSS

Click here for the [list of the Federal MPs and Senators May 2018](#)

You could also write to the mayor of your Local Council, and ask that they join with other mayors who are advocating for the restoration of the SRSS supports for people seeking asylum.

Mayors and councillors from 17 Victorian councils have called on the federal government to reverse its cuts to support payments for asylum seekers here on bridging visas. See article here: [Victorian councillors condemn federal cuts to asylum seeker payments](#)

For further information go to [ARAN Stop the SRSS cuts](#) campaign resources and also [RCOA summary re SRSS cuts](#)

SIGN on to the Resolution passed at the ARAN conference regarding the Australian Government's

duty of care towards people held in detention – reply by 20 September

All ARAN member groups are invited to ENDORSE the resolution that was passed at the closing session of the ARAN conference. The Resolution was put by Max Costello, Paddy McClosky (Doctors for Refugees) and Margaret Sinclair, calls on the federal government to comply with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 which requires it to ensure the health and safety of everyone in a workplace (including detention centres). Clearly the Australian Government is in breach of this responsibility in relation to people held in detention onshore and offshore.

<https://australianrefugeeactionnetwork.files.wordpress.com/2018/07/resolution-carried-by-aran-conference-8-july-20181.pdf>

Please email austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com by 20 September with the name of your group if you wish to be added to the list of groups endorsing the resolution.

OTHER CAMPAIGNS:

[#TURNBACKTOHUMANITY](#) People Just Like Us have a Five Point Plan which they using to lobby politicians. Everyone is invited to sign on to the plan, and use these resources.

[online petition](#) **calling on all airlines not to deport people back to danger.**

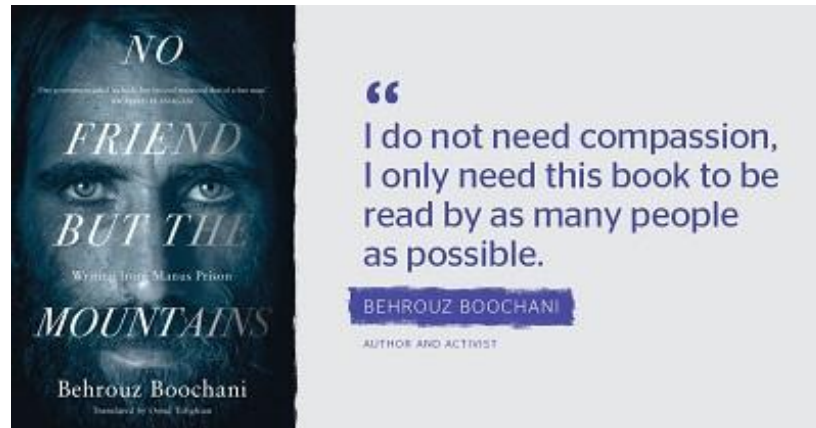
With the government increasing the amount of deportations set to occur, airlines need to take a stand and show real leadership.

PETITION for JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES now closed. Great work everyone – we have around 6,850 signatures collected - now we will get the petition off to parliament. A big thanks to Kerry Phillips for co-ordinating the petition.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Behrouz Boochani's new book *No Friend But the Mountains: Writings from Manus Prison* is one of the most important books we will read. Behrouz's words generate energy and hope time and time again for all of us to continue building the movement to free people from detention and legal oblivion, and offer asylum in Australia. We honour Behrouz's ever inspiring work to free men

on Manus, including himself, from debilitating, life-destroying indefinite detention and offshore processing. The book was written by text message from Manus. Behrooz was interviewed online by Arnold Zable at the Melbourne Writers Festival.



Request for Donations to support new Documentary film: *JOURNEY BEYOND FEAR*

individuals and organisations can now make tax deductible donations to support our efforts to get **JOURNEY BEYOND FEAR** _ our feature documentary and its pro-refugee message, promoted and out into the public.

<https://www.documentaryaustralia.com.au/films/4069/journey-beyond-fear>

Filmed over 7 years, this is a story of love as much as a tale of persecution. Finally, after seven years of uncertainty and desperation, Zahra's family receives word that they are going to Australia as part of the UN re-settlement program. They are overwhelmed with happiness.

CAN YOU HELP US WITH INFORMATION?

1. Let us know about actions you are planning, and afterwards send photos!

2. Please make sure that ARAN has the RIGHT CONTACTS for YOUR GROUP

a. *Who is the best contact to receive emails and ARAN Updates*— this should be someone who can circulate information to your membership or networks

Name:

Role:
Email:

b. *Who is the best contact for social media*– ie Facebook and Twitter ? (ARAN is looking to be more active on social media, and we hope that member groups can assist with reposting, and retweeting information to maximise the impact.

Name:
Email:

Please send to austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com by **20 September**

3. RAN is working with RCOA and other groups to help plan lobbying strategies in the lead up to the Federal Election. You can help by providing information you may have about the level of support – or otherwise - your local MP or Senator demonstrates for refugees and people seeking asylum. If you have this information please send us

- Name of MP/Senator
- rating (Does not appear to be concerned, May be concerned but runs party line, Has expressed concern),
- any additional comment

Also, are members of your group actively lobbying your MP/s ?

Please send to austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com by **20 September**

THANKS – LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU !

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