

**“ I am a civil engineer, but  
I don’t have a future.**

**The Australian Government  
has imprisoned us for 7  
precious years of life, away  
from loved ones and  
community. We lost 13 brothers who  
died in offshore processing. It’s time  
for Prime Minister Morrison to give  
us freedom to start life again in a  
safe, new home.”**

Farhad Rahmati, Human rights activist,  
detained at Villawood detention facility.

**TIME FOR  
A HOME** 

 [timeforahome.com.au](https://timeforahome.com.au)

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## What’s in the November 2020 ARAN Update:

### CAMPAIGN ACTIONS

**Resettlement for refugees still held in PNG and Nauru**

\* Game Over campaign - <https://gameover.org.au/>

\* ToNZ

### Onshore detention issues

\* Sign on to the RAC (Vic) letter to Accor Hotels by 15 November

- \* Time for a Home Campaign – release from detention
- \* Plan an action during 6-13 December

### **Call on ALP to speak up for Refugees**

- \* Respond to the draft policy platform
- \* Email ALP MPs and Senators

## **NEWS FROM the SECTOR & MEMBER GROUPS**

17-20 November **Kaldor Centre online conference – New Frontiers of Refugee Law in a Closed World. Registrations and details here:**

<https://www.kaldorconference.com/>

Friday 20 November 10am – **MOSAIC Webinar - Sponsorship to Canada** – see details below

**Indefinite Sleep Out for the release of people in Indefinite detention** – Now over 450 nights – great work Grandmothers, Doctors4Refugees and other supporters. See pic below, and follow the Sleepout on FB:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheIndefiniteSleepout/>

**CARAD – request for mobile phones for people in detention** see details below

**Permanent Protection** - Sign the petition: <http://chng.it/2ZsLMS6W> and follow and support the campaign here:

<https://www.facebook.com/iranianwomensassociation/>

**Income support – thousands still with no safety net:** If your group is financially supporting refugees let us know – we would like to hear from you email [austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com) Subject line: Supporting refugees

**ARAN Network of Letter Writing Groups** – next meeting: Weds 9 December 8pm. To join email [austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com)

## **FROM ARAN COMMITTEE**

### **ARAN website**

- \* Media reports -Looking for a news report? You might find it here:

<https://aran.net.au/recent-news/news-archive/>

- \* [Send us news from your group for inclusion in the next ARAN Update](#) info-pics@aran.net.au



## CAMPAIGN ACTIONS

### RESETTLEMENT FOR REFUGEES HELD OFFSHORE

#### #GameOver – Canberra action on 28 October

<https://amp.sbs.com.au/v1/news/article/give-them-a-fair-go-scott-morrison-urged-to-accept-new-zealand-refugee-deal/d7d094d2-1ba5-42ec-9416-7d60ab27c8f7>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxcDmVmww\\_Q&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxcDmVmww_Q&feature=youtu.be)

#### What you can do:

- \* Do an action at your local MPs office “**#GameOver**: End the suffering of those still held offshore after 7 years - **#ToNZ**: Say YES to New Zealand’s offer to resettle these people”. Post photos to Twitter and Facebook
- \* Write to the PM and Minister Tudge and your local MP, encouraging them to take up the offer from New Zealand NOW – people have been waiting too long.
- \* GameOver Resource Toolkit is on the Amnesty website -

<https://gameover.org.au/toolkit/>

**Just under 300 people are still offshore after 7 years**, and there appears to be no resettlement plan for many of these people. The Senate Estimates Committee heard that resettlement of refugees to the US under the 2016 bilateral agreement is expected to end by March or April 2021. As at mid-October, 870 former Nauru and Manus detainees had been transferred to the

US, with a further 250 awaiting transfers after receiving provisional approval. About 80 refugees and asylum seekers are expected to remain on Nauru and Manus at the end of the agreement. Department of Home Affairs Secretary Mike Pezzullo said New Zealand's offer to resettle 150 refugees 'remains under active consideration'. News per the Kaldor Centre

[www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au](http://www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au)

\* 'NZ refugee offer under 'consideration' as US deal winds down', The Australian Financial Review, 19 October 2020

\* 'Australia: Most of 1,100 refugees in US deal have resettled, Associated Press, 19 October 2020

## **END DETENTION – National Campaign - #TIMEFORAHOME**

The national campaign calling for the release of people from immigration detention was launched on 5 November with the following media announcement: <https://asrc.org.au/2020/11/05/coalition-of-60-organisations-launch-time-for-a-home-campaign-giving-morrison-government-a-june-2021-deadline-to-resettle-refugees/>.

**Sign your group on to the campaign** at [www.timeforahome.com.au](http://www.timeforahome.com.au). See memes for social media and other information on the website.

Human Rights Day is on 10 December – **plan an action during the week 6-13 December**. Send details of your action for listing on the ARAN website using the [ARAN Contact Form](#)

**RACVic Open letter to Accor Hotels calling on them to stop profiting from abuse** – sign as org and/or individual by **15 November**. Add your name at <https://forms.gle/sDqRmFLneHvpJLcL7>. Go to <https://rac-vic.org/> for more information. Accor owns hundreds of hotels in Australia – Tell them you disapprove of their cooperation in depriving innocent people of their freedom.

**The situation for people in indefinite detention is desperate – some key concerns reported here:**

\* Attempts to silence those who speak out: Mr Farhad Rahmati was removed from BITA (Brisbane) to Villawood in Sydney 2 days after speaking out on ABC radio about protests and the situation for those held in immigration detention. Farhad has been a fearless advocate for those, including himself who were transferred from Manus and Nauru under the Medevac laws, but who are still being held in detention in Australia. "This is a blatant attempt by Border Force to use their arbitrary powers to control, victimise and punish refugee and asylum seekers who 'step out of line', " (Ian Rintoul spokesperson for the Refugee

Action Coalition).

Reports of solitary confinement after medical visits at the Mantra:

<https://insidestory.org.au/management-by-quarantine/>

Doctors4Refugees encourage their colleagues to challenge excessive use of restraints during medical appointments:

<https://www.doctors4refugees.org/single-post/open-letter-in-support-of-paramedics-and-other-health-professionals>

Court challenge: Afghan asylum seeker sues for false imprisonment in 'cockroach-infested' Australian facility', The Guardian, 20 October 2020

Information about who is held in immigration detention and current statistics can be found on the ARAN website. <https://aran.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-immigration-detention-statistics-july-2020-07.xlsx>

## **INCOME SUPPORT – thousands on Bridging Visas still have no safety net**

**Write to your local MP and the Minister Anne Ruston**

[senator.ruston@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ruston@aph.gov.au) and call for these people to be allowed to remain in the housing, and be provided with basic income support through Centrelink.

**Share the petition to Minister for Social Services Anne Ruston** petition:

<https://www.nochildleftbehind.com.au/petition>

**Request: if you are supporting refugees and people seeking asylum who have no income, contact us with non-identifying case studies to support the advocacy effort.**

## **ENGAGE WITH ALP POLITICIANS**

It's important to engage with ALP politicians – let them know you care about how we treat refugees, and that you want justice and dignity of all those who seek protection in Australia.

Here is the ALP draft policy: <https://www.alp.org.au/media/2200/2020-alp-national-platform-consultation-draft.pdf> See refugee policy on pages 87- 96 - A nation built on migration, and also a brief statement on Page 69 - Strong borders and a strong humanitarian immigration program

The Platform needs to be ratified by ALP members at the ALP Conference, which is likely to be early in 2021. Then the Platform becomes the ALP Policy

for the next election and is binding for the ALP Parliamentary Party.

Write to your ALP members and senators, urging them to speak up for refugee rights, and to make sure their policy is based on human rights, and is in line with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention.

See listing of all politicians here (Senators and MPs ) sortable by party:

<https://aran.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-federal-mps-senators-june.xlsx>

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## NEWS FROM THE SECTOR & ARAN MEMBER GROUPS

**Sponsorship to Canada - Operation #NotForgotten is holding an Information Session for Supporters and Advocates on: Friday 20 Nov from 10-11.30 (AEDT)** for those logging in from Australia (in Canada it's Thurs 19 Nov from 3-4.30). Hear about what the Project has been able to accomplish, its challenges and expectations for next 12 months. This Information session is geared to Advocates and Refugee Supporters only, and will include **presentations from MOSAIC, Ads Up Canada, UNHCR and RCOA** Please share event with your network. To register click on the flowing link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/mosaic-operation-not-forgotten-project-update-and-information-session-registration-126141591897>

**CARAD – request for mobile phones for people in detention–** Please mail wiped, unlocked, functioning smart phones to CARAD: P/O Box 8547, Perth, WA 6849. For further information email: [joanna@carad.org.au](mailto:joanna@carad.org.au). Detainees (people seeking asylum or refugees only) can call CARAD office on (08)92277322 and ask for Joanna to request a phone or text their details to 0467 056 004

**A big call out to Grandmothers for Refugees, Doctors4Refugees, RAR and others who have kept the INDEFINITE SLEEPOUT to END INDEFINITE DETENTION going for more than 15 months – a wonderful effort !!**

#EndIndefiniteDetention # FreetheRefugees Share the image and hashtags on social media.



If you would like to share news from your group in the next ARAN Update please send us details including an image on the [ARAN Contact Page form](#) with the ARAN member group.

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