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December 2022 ARAN UPDATE



WHAT'S IN THE UPDATE?

Current issues and advocacy

- **Email or post Christmas cards to politicians**
<https://aran.net.au/resources/letter-writing/#xmaspostcard>
- **Income Safety Net for all people who are seeking asylum**
<https://aran.net.au/resources/letter-writing/>
- **Call for the Evacuation of refugees from PNG and Nauru**
- **People on TPVs and SHEVs still waiting for election promise**

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- **Raise the Refugee Quota** – [sign petition here](#)
- **Support a Human Rights Act** – [see further info here](#)

Coming events

- **ARAN Members forum – discussion re Palm Sunday – Monday 6th February 8pm AEDT (Palm Sunday in 2023 is on 2nd April)**
- **Refugee Fridays**

Other News

- **New UN report on torture urges changes to Australian refugee policy**
<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/new-un-report-on-torture-urges-changes-to-australian-refugee-policy/>

CURRENT ISSUES & ADVOCACY

Email or post a Christmas message to politicians

The ARAN letter writing network has prepared a selection of cards which can be printed off and mailed, and also a format that can be emailed. We encourage you to take a few minutes to send off to your local MP, and the Prime Minister. See options [here](#).



**Being with family is
precious for everyone**



**Allow all refugees to apply for
family reunion**

Call for the Evacuation of refugees from PNG and Nauru

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have been held in PNG and on Nauru for nearly 10 years are in urgent need of critical health care. It is understood that their mental health is so compromised that UNHCR is unable to progress claims of refugee status. So far, the Australian Government is refusing to bring these people here for the care they need. The situation was reported in [The Guardian on 10 December 2022](#).

These desperately ill people are amongst the 171 people still held offshore - 92 refugees in PNG, and 79 on Nauru. Of these, it is understood that 75 people have no pathway to safe resettlement.

The United Nations rapporteurs have said Australia has a “clear and undeniable” responsibility for people that Australia sent to PNG and Nauru for offshore processing.

Income Safety Net for all those seeking asylum: Take action – send a letter

The number of people living here in our community with no means of support is increasing. Most people who have bridging visas also have the right to work, but some are denied the right to work. People who have lost appeals cases do not have the right to work. **These people have no means of support** - this is not acceptable in our country – everyone needs a roof over their head and food on the table.

Go to the letter Kit prepared by the ARAN Network of Letter Writing Groups for further background and suggestions for emails and letters to the Prime Minister, Minister Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration, and Minister Clare O’Neil, Minister for Home Affairs. We suggest you also send copies of your letters to your local MP. **Please circulate through your groups and networks – and perhaps organise a letter writing session.**

The Kit is available online on the [ARAN website](#) and also the [RAR website](#).

See also ASRC Petition: Let people seeking safety work, study & rebuild: [sign here](#).

Permanent Visas for people currently on TPVs and SHEVs

Still waiting: the 19,000 refugees on TPVs and SHEVs are waiting to be granted Permanent Protection visas. Protests have been held across the country, as hopes that an announcement will be made by Christmas are fading. On 29 November, around 1,000 people, mostly refugees on TPVs, SHEVs and Bridging Visas protested outside Parliament House in Canberra. A delegation to discuss the issue with David Pocock was followed up with a question raised in the Senate that afternoon, asking why the granting of permanent visas has been delayed.

For more photos from the protest action go to [Canberra RAC FB page](#).

week prior to the first sitting of the federal parliament in February 2023.

National network on permanency – if you would like more information about the next meeting which will be held on zoom on Saturday 28 January 2023 from 2-3pm (WA); 4.30-5.30pm (SA); 5.00-6.00pm (NSW/VIC/ACT, email Caroline Fleay C.Fleay@curtin.edu.au.



New Zealand Resettlement for those who have been held offshore

As we know, in March 2022 the Australian Government finally accepted the offer by New Zealand to resettle refugees who have been held offshore in PNG and on Nauru. Many people who are potentially eligible for resettlement in New Zealand have been living here in Australia for up to 8 years.

Even though all those accepted for resettlement in NZ will be given permanent residency on arrival, and the opportunity to apply for family reunion, it is understandable that many are reluctant to again uproot their lives, leaving loved ones here in Australia, and start over again in New Zealand. Some refugees are choosing to consider the possibility of resettlement in New Zealand, given the current stance of the Australian government in reusing resettlement here for people who have been held offshore at any time.

Further information on the support provided by New Zealand for refugees is available [here](#).

COMING EVENTS

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forum, sharing good ideas, and considering a proposal by the ARAN national committee for consistent messaging on Palm Sunday – on the themes Justice for Refugees, and Permanent Protection for All Refugees. Keep the date free – further information to be provided in mid-January. If you would like the Zoom link, email austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com

And remember... every Friday is Refugee Friday – initiated by Amnesty Refugee Network

All refugee advocates are being called to demonstrate solidarity and commitment to the just treatment of refugees and asylum seekers by wearing a visible statement of their support every Friday.

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