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August 2023 ARAN UPDATE



Neil Para is walking to the PM's office – calling for Fair Process and Permanent Visas.

Sign and circulate the petition he will present to the PM

<https://www.change.org/walkforfreedom>

WHAT'S IN THE UPDATE?

Immediate Action

- **Write to ALP politicians before National Labor Conference on 19 & 20 August.**
Suggested points for your email /letter and email addresses in the [ARAN letter kit](#)

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Zoom forum, Tuesday 15 August 7pm (AEST), register [here](#)

We need to know what's happening and how we can advocate for our government to keep the needs and struggles of Afghan people front of mind. See also details below re live event in Adelaide on Tues 15 August at 5pm.

- **Don't Deport Dixtan** [sign and share petition-](#)
See more detail in the [Article in the Tamil Guardian](#) **and the** [SBS story](#).

Other current issues and advocacy

- **10,000 left behind – seeking a fair process to resolve their claims for asylum. Neil Para's Walk and**
- **Pathways to permanency - TPV and SHEV holders fear long delays**
- **Refugees Off PNG campaign**
- **14,000 still stranded in Indonesia**

Coming events

- **Afghanistan 2 years on: Adelaide live event 5pm Tue 15 August / Canberra event 11 Sept**

Recent events

- **10 Years Too Long actions across Australia – see a selection of photos below**

CURRENT ISSUES & ADVOCACY

Pathways to Permanency

10,000 people still needing the fair process which Fast Track does not provide

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resolve the situation for nearly 10,000 people seeking asylum who have been here in Australia since before 2013. The assessment process is inadequate, and the right to appeal through the court does not provide for any review of the merit of the claim for refugee status. Given the significant worsening of conditions in many countries since 2013, there is a strong case for more thorough determination and review processes.

Neil Para is walking from Ballarat to Sydney to petition the PM. Neil is a Sri Lankan refugee from Ballarat has lived here for 11 years in uncertainty with his wife and three daughters without a permanent visa, is not permitted a job or continuous Medicare. His daughters' access to tertiary study is affected too.

See the [ABC news story](#) and the [Guardian story](#).

Make sure you [sign and share the petition](#)

Follow Neil's walk on www.facebook.com/BallaratRAR and like and share the page !

TPV and SHEV conversion to permanency

TPV and SHEV holders are frustrated with delays the slow progress since February – it is thought that around 5,000 people now have permanent visa. Further information see the following factsheets: [RCOA summary](#), [ASRC Info sheet](#), [RACS factsheet](#), [Dept of Immigration RoS criteria](#). For further advice and assistance contact Refugee Advice and Casework Service or Refugee Legal.

Refugees Off PNG



Around 75 refugees and people seeking asylum are still trapped in PNG. A number of these men have no resettlement pathway, and some need to have their refugee status confirmed.

The Refugees Off Working group has developed a number of suggested Actions you can Take. See [here](#)

See also

- [ASRC online letter to politicians](#)
- [ASRC Report](#)
- [ASRC design assets](#) (logos, signs, images, social media tiles)
- [ASRC messaging guide](#)

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Refugees still in PNG Monday 21 August at 6.30pm AEST. Hear directly from one of the 77 refugees still held offshore in Port Moresby in PNG about their situation there, and what we can do to demand the Australian government bring them here to safety. Speakers include: Yasir (Somali refugee stranded in Papua New Guinea), Jason Siwat (Director of the Migrants and Refugees Desk with Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands). Forum organized by RAC Vic.

Indonesia:

Around 14,000 refugees are still stranded in Indonesia, in limbo since the ban on resettlement imposed by Australia in 2014. In case you missed it last time, see Solidarity report [here](#).

See also [RCOA report](#) for further detail about the situation for these refugees.

It's time to demand that Labor ends the ban and brings the refugees here.

COMING EVENTS

Afghanistan – 2 years on:

- Adelaide event, Tue 15 August, 5pm, at Tartanyangga/Victoria Square, Speakers, including Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, and Phillip Martin, Deputy Lord Mayor, Adelaide; music; and photo projection
- Canberra, Parliament House lawns, Wed 11 September, 5pm. Speakers will include parliamentarians, Hazara activists and refugees
- Film: **Watandar, My Countryman** showings also continue: see <https://www.watandar.com.au/>

RECENT EVENTS

Grandmothers for Refugees - great work on petition with 6,556 signatures.

Over April and May Grandmothers worked tirelessly to gather

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refugees who still don't have a pathway to certainty.

On Monday 19 June, the first day of Refugee Week, Susan Templeman Chair of the House of Representatives Petitions Committee and member for Macquarie, presented the petition to the House.

Of the 43 petitions she presented that morning, this was the only one to receive a special mention Ms Templeman pointed out that, unsurprisingly, the vast majority of petitions (more than 97%) are submitted through the e-Petition

system.

The fact that a paper petition with 6,556 approved signatures, was something Ms Templeman thought worth a special mention.

10 Years Too Long actions

Activist and advocates got busy, with over 20 actions organised across Australia – see here just a few photos from some of the actions

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Grandmothers for Refugees, Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association and other refugees support are holding regular actions at Minister Clare O'Neil's office, including an action on 21 July marking 10 Years Too Long. In this photo the Minister has joined the group, but no doubt she is somewhat challenged to have protesters outside her office on a regular basis.

Send us photos and details of your activities! If you have photos of actions, please send through for the next ARAN Update. Email to austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com.

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