

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of Australian Catholics committed to ending policies relating to asylum and migration that conflict with the Church's Social Teaching

draws to the attention of the House:

the statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference of May 2014 which declares that *the human dignity and basic human rights of asylum seekers in Australia today are being 'seriously violated' and that current asylum seeker policies amount to 'institutionalised cruelty'*.

We therefore ask the House to:

develop asylum seeker policy and Legislation which is consistent with the principles and values of Catholic Social Teaching, specifically:

- ending offshore detention;
- completely ending the mandatory detention of children;
- facilitating the right of asylum seekers to be part of our community, especially in allowing their right to work in Australia;
- favouring the integration of people seeking asylum into our community by finding a place where they can live in peace and safety;
- respecting the human dignity and human rights of asylum seekers, regardless of their citizenship, visa status or mode of arrival; and
- fast-tracking the processing time of asylum seekers' protection claims.