

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

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This petition is conducted by a group of likeminded students associated with human rights and social issues at James Cook University, Townsville.

We are drawing the attention of the House to the inhuman policies, discrimination of people arriving by boat, and living conditions of those detained in offshore detention centres. It is of great concern to us that these people in offshore detention centres are being ignored by Australia and ill-treated due to the fact they are fleeing from persecution in their country of origin. After reaching Australian waters, asylum seekers are subject to years of waiting, physical and mental illness, worry and fear. Refugees are not less than us, they are equal and deserve fair and just treatment in accordance with Australia's obligations under the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the 1954 Refugee Convention.

We therefore ask the House to close down offshore detention centres to protect the safety of asylum seekers and to bring stronger legal and civic accountability to the Australian government.