

Subject: Migration Act [asylum seeker]... Amendment Bill 2014
Date: Friday, 24 October 2014 3:37:38 PM

Dear Members of Parliament and Senators, Committee Members,

I would like to make a submission in opposition to the the bill currently under consideration in its totality.

The bill is designed to effectively deny ALL refugees trying to escape political persecution by boat the right to seek and receive permanent asylum in Australia - an unjust and inhumane outcome. It also attempts to place the Minister for Immigration above the judicial system, undermining democratic processes and the separation of powers in Australia. Further, the bill allows indefinite detention of asylum seekers and cursory processing of refugee applications without recourse to legal advice or independent rights of appeal, facilitating refoulement to countries where returned asylum seekers may be killed and have been killed.

Australia's asylum seekers are already held 'offshore' in less affluent foreign countries, for very long periods, under punitive, psychologically and physically harmful conditions, to deliver political capital to certain Australian politicians. The current system for processing refugee claims is highly uneconomic, as well as unethical, and the current bill will only further degrade it. Australia is a wealthy country which is attempting to evade its commitments to human rights, especially the rights of children, and its responsibilities to refugees as part of an international community facing global refugee issues.

The actions of our government and its intentions in this bill - to resettle NO refugees driven into escaping their homelands by boat in Australia, on a permanent basis, to deny independent consideration of claims, to deny legal rights of appeal - are not those of civilized people but an insular, selfish, people - to the point of petty tyranny and inhuman malice. I find this bill deeply shameful in its lack of regard for human rights and absence of compassion. It is also dangerously anti democratic. I hope the parliament will completely reject it.

Yours sincerely,

Catriona Macleod