

There is no reason why detention is necessary for asylum seekers. Not only is it prohibitively expensive, but it aims to fix a problem that is (by in large) out of the control of the Australian government. The very premise of mandatory detention, and the very premise of deals like the Malaysian refugee swap, is to disincentivise the boat journey across to Australia. However, this ignores the myriad of factors that dictate the decision behind seeking asylum in Australia. Further, it punishes the very people who we have an obligation to help. Finally, it makes a problem which is, at its most, marginal in its effect on Australia as a nation. Please put a stop to this mindless and cruel policy.