

To: The Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate.

We, the undersigned, are shocked and outraged at the perceived and actual treatment by our Government of refugees who have been obliged to undertake arduous and hazardous journeys to try to find safety and security in Australia.

It is obvious that the recent relaxation of onerous detention conditions has been effected in response to the rise of adverse public opinion and the obvious disquiet among the backbench ranks of the governing parties. It has nothing to do with the quality of individual cases or, perhaps, a belated "discovery" of real fear of persecution among refugees. It is a cynical exercise in government PR.

It is noted that this Inquiry may not have proceeded had the Cornelia Rau case not come to light; it is also noted that this Inquiry seems not to apply to those unfortunate people still detained on Nauru.

James Gilmour, ECHUCA  
Helen Gilmour, ECHUCA  
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Rural Australians for Refugees.