

To the Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am opposed to the Bill for amendment of the Migration Act 1958 to extend offshore processing to asylum seekers arriving at mainland Australia by sea on or after 13 April 2006, just as I am opposed to offshore processing generally.

As a nation that is a signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention, we should work to promote rather than evade the intention of its charter. It is unseemly to place economic or even so-called "border protection" concerns ahead of treating fellow human-beings with the dignity and consideration that the Convention prescribes. Off-shore processing has already raised a number of serious concerns within Australia and in the international community.

It is my hope that the Bill will lapse

Dennis Ryle  
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