

I am appalled to see the hard-won reforms to this Bill being overturned because of pressure from Indonesia.

II trust your committee will take seriously Australia's obligations under the UN Refugee Convention Articles 31-33.

Australia has the opportunity to treat people with respect and fairness, rather than subjecting them to a process that leaves little hope of their receiving an equal opportunity to state their case and be considered for asylum. It is very clear that West Papuan people are being systematically denied human rights, and the possibility for their accessing normal channels open to refugees is remote. It may be a difficult decision for Australia, but in the end, it is in our own interest, as well as that of the refugees, to offer the solidarity they need through providing a just means of gaining asylum.

Ample evidence exists as to the disastrous effects on children as well as adults of being detained long-term. The reinstating of the Pacific solution will mean a return to long-term detention, the repatriation of refugees to face torture and death, and more serious psychiatric illness for children and adults. All this is our responsibility if we refuse to do what we can.

I urge you to refuse the passage of this legislation

Jenny Richardson

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