



Photo: Leaders of Religious Institutes lobbying for refugees and asylum seekers in Canberra, 2015

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Just In Time



Global Responsibility-Sharing

The current global and regional refugee crisis is a responsibility crisis. Of 20+ million refugees, less than 1 percent ever find permanent homes. Refugees are our reality. There are significant moves to frame a rights-based approach on safety, protection and sufficient resources for overwhelmed host countries.

“1 in every 113 people on earth is an asylum-seeker, internally displaced, or a refugee. How many do you know?” (UNHCR, 20 April 2017)

Refugees in the Asia Pacific

There are approximately **3.5 million** refugees in the Asia Pacific.

The region has two of the largest refugee producing countries in the world – **Myanmar and Afghanistan**.

Two out of three of the world’s **largest populations of stateless people are in Myanmar and Thailand**: 40% of the world’s identified stateless people.

Irregular migration

The Asia Pacific is a **major source and destination** for trafficking in persons. There are large movements, mostly undocumented, of irregular migrants **moving mostly for work opportunities**. Related to this is migrant smuggling and other transnational crimes.

Climate related displacement is predicted to rise in the Asia Pacific region.

Asia has five countries with the largest populations in **low-lying coastal areas**, and has over 90% of the world’s exposure to cyclones.

Displacement in the Pacific from rising sea levels is already a great concern.

What’s changing in our region?

Thailand and Indonesia are implementing measures to provide more predictable access to screening for asylum seekers.

Malaysia began a pilot project on 1 March allowing a limited number of Rohingya refugees to work legally in the country.

The **ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP)** came into force last month. It is seen as a strong instrument based on committed collaborative enforcement.

It is time to develop a regional approach to refugees that is humane, legal and effective.

2018 Global Compacts on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees and Migrants

The UN General Assembly’s adoption of the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants** on 19 September 2016 has set in train negotiations on two Global Compacts in 2018: one on **safe, orderly and regular migration** and one on **refugees**.

The forces of war, economics and nature make the global refugee crisis the **new normal**.

Every UN member country is expected to pledge to increase their humanitarian intake of refugees and to provide more resources to host countries at the General Assembly in **September 2018**.

“Population movements are complex but blurring the lines between refugees and others on the move can only mean less protection for refugees.”

(Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees)

Time for Australia to engage with global and regional changes

Australia has a long and proud history as a resettlement country.

Australia has demonstrated success in integrating refugees and others from around the world.

Australia is an important aid and development partner in the region and there is much that can be done to promote refugee protection in the region.

Australia's track record on refugee protection domestically is a failure. Review of the 2016 New York Declaration and preparation for the 2018 Global Compacts offer opportunities for change.

Why Australia can benefit

If we learn to recognize that people seeking safety, refuge, protection and dignity want to build their lives here, work hard, create jobs and enrich our community life – we will all be better off: economically, culturally and morally.

It will help people who need our help.

These are people who have come here because they can't stay where they are.

Nobody stays in limbo unless they really believe they can't go back.

Refugee Council of Australia: [State of the Nation Report](#)

Become part of changing Australia's conversation about refugees, migration and resettlement

Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum
(CAPSA)

WE CAN

STAND IN SOLIDARITY

Take action from June 9 -23 in CAPSA's
[National Week of Prayer & Action](#).

Last year more than 12,000 school students nationally were involved.

WE CAN

JOIN WITH OTHERS FOR CHANGE

Host a community conversation, meet your MP,
attend a Circle of Silence.

Check out the [Toolkit for Change](#).

WE CAN

ENGAGE HEARTS AND MINDS

"\$500,000 per child, woman and man just for running costs to detain them in concentration camps on Nauru and Manus Island."

RAC Canberra, 28 April 2017

LEARN MORE – download and share:

[The Monthly, Blog \(28 April 2017\) – For a rights-based response to asylum seekers; Australia must work towards a medium-term solution](#)

[Australian Human Rights Commission \(2016\) – Pathways to Protection: A human rights-based response to the flight of asylum seekers by sea](#)

[Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law \(UNSW\)](#) – fact sheets and weekly newsletter.

[Lowy Institute for International Policy](#) – papers, policy briefs, The Interpreter publication.

Pope Francis gives a TED Talk, 26 April 2017:

Pope Francis calls for a focus on maintaining "hope through solidarity with one another"; and repeats his frequent call for a "revolution of tenderness," which is "the love that comes close and becomes real".

"A single individual is enough for hope to exist, that individual can be you.

And then there will be another 'you' and another 'you' and it turns into an 'us'.

Hope begins with a 'you' and when an 'us' develops - there begins a revolution."

Watch the TED talk [here \(17:52\)](#)