

# Just In Time



Image by Matt Golding, The Sunday Age (Matt is happy for us to share the image so please credit him)

**“Veteran UN officials say they have never seen a wealthy democracy go to such extremes to punish asylum seekers and push them away.”**

(New York Times, 18 November 2017)

A leaked transcript of the infamous telephone conversation between US President Donald Trump, and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull reveals that Mr Turnbull told the President that asylum seekers on Manus and Nauru are 'basically economic refugees' from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

**“Many of those on Manus are recognised as refugees by the UN.**

**That gives them rights – among other things to protection. Time for some humanity.”**

(@Helen ClarkNZ, 19 November 2017)

Six detainees have died [at Manus]. A small number have reached Australia for medical treatment. Hundreds have left, after agreeing to deportation. And 54 refugees from Manus and Nauru have made it to the United States. When might more follow?

“You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” (*Leviticus 19:34*)

## TELEPHONE CALLS TO PRIME MINISTER & MPs ARE WORKING

New Zealand and Australia have begun talks about screening procedures for Manus refugees.

Together we are a powerful and determined community. Join hundreds and thousands of Australians raising their voice.

**Please make telephone calls NOW.**

Ask to bring **ALL** those trapped on Manus and Nauru here until safe and viable options are found.

Malcolm Turnbull - (02) 9327 3988; Peter Dutton - (07) 3205 9977; Bill Shorten – (03) 9326 1300 & your Federal Member - details [here](#)

## ‘Boat people’: welcome to a new life in Australia

Australia has resettled a group of 17 out of 24 Cuban boat people who were famously found stranded on a US lighthouse off the shores of Florida in May 2016.

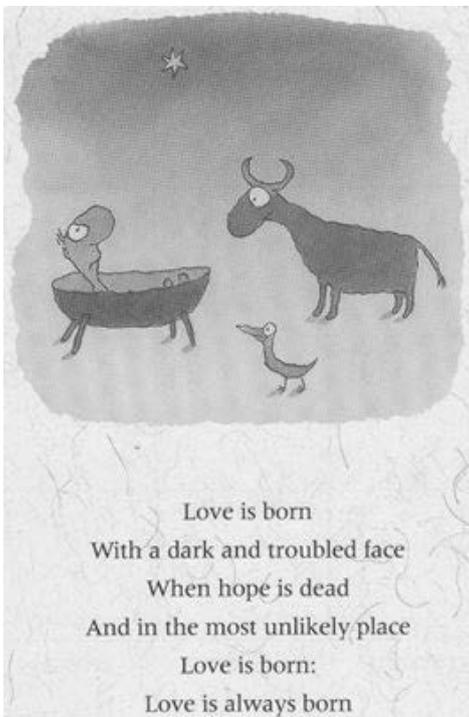
The group of Cuban 'boat people' arrived in Australia on 31 July after a long trip from the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, their temporary home for more than a year, and are now resettled in Brisbane.

The timing of the resettlement of the 17 Cuban boat people has raised some eyebrows. Under last year's immigration deal with the US, Australia pledged to take around 30 Central American refugees from a centre in Costa Rica and in exchange the US would offer refuge to up to 1,250 asylum seekers from Manus and Nauru.

At the moment the main concern of Amnesty as well as many refugee advocate groups is the situation of the people in Manus and Nauru, who are living in harsh conditions and are waiting to be resettled, if they pass the extreme vetting, in the US.

While some 400 asylum seekers, mainly families, women and children, transferred to Australian soil for medical treatments will be left with no settlement option and medical support.

**(Full report at [SBS Spanish, 4 September 2017](#))**



Michael Leunig, First published 1991

## Pope Francis: governments not to expel or incarcerate

Pope Francis has released his message for the Catholic Church's 104<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which will be celebrated on **14 January 2018**, with a focus on **'Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees'**.

In his **message**, the Pope rejects "statelessness", hopeful that host countries will come up with "nationality legislation that is in conformity with the fundamental principles of international law" to the benefit of children and long-term residents.

The Church has "particular concern for the lamentable situation of many migrants and refugees fleeing from war, persecution, natural disasters and poverty".

The Pope wants all UN member states to sign by next year two global compacts to save the lives of migrants and refugees and protect their rights. In order to achieve this, it is important that the dignity of the person be more valued than "national security".

Full Message from Pope Francis, 15 August 2017 [HERE](#)

## Can you make a house a home for people seeking asylum?

**The House of Welcome is currently in urgent need of new housing stock as the demand for accommodation is still critical. Last year, the service received 151 referrals for accommodation, including many family groups.**

The House of Welcome is a service operated by St Francis Social Services that was set up in 2001 to deliver humane responses for people seeking asylum in Sydney.

Stable accommodation provides the opportunity for a person to settle into a community so that they can begin to address the complex needs that seeking asylum initiates.

By working in partnership with housing providers, the House of Welcome has built a Housing Program to house clients and manage properties across Sydney. According to Lyn Harrison, CEO of St Francis Social Services, *"Property lenders have come from many walks of life, but the majority have certainly come from faith based, particularly Catholic religious, organisations."*

*All clients are settled into the community by our Housing Worker and they continue to receive Case Work and access to other wrap-around services provided by House of Welcome.*

*Where a particular community is keen to support the family or individuals, we work with them to make introductions and ensure they are supported in doing so."*

Sadly, in October, House of Welcome was informed that three properties currently occupied by House of Welcome clients will be returned to general housing stock which people seeking asylum are ineligible to apply for. There is currently a family, a single mother of two children and a single young woman in the affected accommodation.

The House of Welcome is urgently seeking vacant housing in live-able condition. They have a Housing Maintenance program which ensures general maintenance and upkeep of the property while in use by House of Welcome clients.

House of Welcome accepts into its accommodation referred clients that are dealing with complex needs and are either living homeless or on the verge of homelessness. With the loss of the three properties, their capacity to meet demand and assist some of the most vulnerable in Sydney is substantially diminished.

**If you can help, please phone: Maryanne Sneddon at House of Welcome (02) 9727 9290.**  
**To donate please visit: [stfrancis.org.au/donate](http://stfrancis.org.au/donate)**

**Email: [clrinsw@ozemail.com.au](mailto:clrinsw@ozemail.com.au) | Website: [www.clrinsw.org.au](http://www.clrinsw.org.au) | Phone: (02) 9799 8062**