

Children Out of Detention

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ChilOut says NO to children back in detention

The Prime Minister has announced that he will change refugee policy to force all asylum seekers arriving by boat into detention centres in Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Christmas Island. There they would be processed, outside the Australian legal system. Children and families would again be locked up with no time limit on their detention. If found to be refugees, they could still wait several years to be sent to other countries.

Australia has a moral obligation to give sanctuary to persecuted neighbours, particularly descendants of those who supported our diggers in World War 2. How do we help them now they are in trouble?

Australia has a legal obligation to permit anyone to apply for asylum who asks for it, not shift them to legal limbo land on a remote island.

Australia has a moral and legal obligation to refrain from depriving innocent children of their liberty, under any circumstances.

ChilOut calls on the Cabinet to reconsider this outrageous proposal and recommit Australia to adhere to international law and the human rights treaties to which Australia is a party.

ChilOut calls on all Government Members and Senators to tell their leader NO to children back in detention.

ChilOut spokesperson Dianne Hiles said, "after the Stolen Generation, it entered the Australian psyche that you don't separate children from their parents. It damages them. Likewise everybody now knows that locking up innocent children indefinitely also damages them. **Every** childhood is precious.

"Why can't our Prime Minister get this? How can we go back to having a law that says we **have** to lock up children? "

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