



Foundation House

The Victorian Foundation
for Survivors of Torture Inc.

Public Statement:

Foundation House urges MPs to accept the NZ refugee offer swiftly

The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House) urges federal Members of Parliament to act swiftly and accept the offer from New Zealand to resettle up to 150 refugees who were transferred by Australia to Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

The evidence of harm to children, women and men is mounting and their plight must be alleviated as an urgent priority.

Foundation House has a long history of working with traumatised asylum seekers including providing assistance to a number of people transferred to Australia for medical care from Nauru and PNG. We have previously warned that their mental and physical health was at serious risk unless a sense of hope could be restored through the provision of decent resettlement options (see previous statements [here](#) and [here](#)).

The US resettlement arrangement is an important and positive initiative, however to date only a small number have been accepted. It is well known that there will be a significant number of refugees who will not be accommodated under the US arrangement and for whom there are currently no other viable options.

The apprehension of the government and the opposition about a resumption of asylum seeker trafficking and the potential for further deaths at sea is understandable. Foundation House also does not want see a return to such a scenario.

However, the situation is increasingly grave.

We are heartened by recent comments from across the political spectrum, and earnestly hope that a resolution can soon be reached.

We acknowledge that the proposed agreement with New Zealand would only be a partial solution, as was the case with the US agreement. We will continue to advocate strongly for a comprehensive resolution to be accomplished as a matter of high priority.

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