

CAPSA Social Justice: “Standing in Solidarity – National Day of Prayer & Action”

I am emailing to let you know about an event coming up being organised by the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA). CAPSA is an advocacy project of Jesuit Social Services to change hearts and minds in the Catholic community towards a more just and compassionate welcome of people seeking protection. It aims to work with schools, parishes, Catholic organisations, health providers etc. to build capacity for advocacy and collaboration on this issue.

This September 4-10, CAPSA is encouraging schools across the country to take part in a National Day of Prayer & Action to stand in solidarity with the many thousands of people facing the harsh conditions of Australia’s immigration policies.

[Take a pledge to stand in solidarity with people seeking asylum this September.](#)

“Standing in Solidarity – National Day of Prayer & Action”, is an opportunity for a united Catholic voice across the country calling for a more just and humane welcome of people seeking asylum in the Australian community, and particularly for the rights of the child to be upheld. It draws on the important work of a number of schools who regularly participate in solidarity actions for people seeking asylum. CAPSA hopes to focus the efforts and energy of schools right across the country to realise the power of the Catholic school community and connect us to the call of Pope Francis for 2016 to be the Year of Mercy.

CAPSA are hoping to get more than 200 schools involved this year, with a view of making this an annual event with growing participation. They have developed a range of resources to help schools be involved, even if they have low capacity. These include action ideas, curriculum packs, prayers, activities, a sample note to parents and many more.

[You can find information, resources and pledge to be involved all on CAPSA’s website.](#)

[The first step you can take to get involved is by taking a pledge to stand in solidarity in September.](#)

CAPSA will provide a high-level of media support, producing media releases, spokesperson training and handling any media around the event. This is to ensure: (1) that we get the best possible media coverage based in our narrative; and (2) to reduce the risk of schools receiving poor or unwanted media coverage. All schools are asked take some photos and/or video of their action and send it to CAPSA to create a collage of the actions all over the country.

We strongly encourage you to get involved in this great opportunity to raise our collective Catholic voice for those people whose dignity and spirit is being destroyed daily through the harmful immigration system in Australia.

Key Details

When: September 4 – 10, National Child Protection Week

Where: Hundreds of schools across the country

What: Schools do an action (examples on attached flyer) that expresses solidarity to the many thousands of people enduring the harsh and cruel conditions of Australia’s immigration processing

How: CAPSA has developed a range of resources to support schools take this action and integrate it into the curriculum and social justice work.

[Don’t forget to take a pledge to stand in solidarity with people seeking asylum this September.](#)

If you have any questions please contact Samuel at Samuel.dariol@jss.org.au

Samuel Dariol

Project Coordinator, Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum



326 Church Street (PO Box 271) Richmond Vic 3121

T (03) 9421 7611

E samuel.dariol@jss.org.au

F (03) 9421 7699

M

Visit capsa.org.au



Jesuit Social Services acknowledges and respects the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land.