

**SUGGESTED POINTS – CHOOSE ANY OR ALL OF THESE AS A BASIS FOR YOUR LETTER/EMAIL /PHONE CALL – ADDING ANY OTHER POINTS YOU WANT TO RAISE**

It is not acceptable to treat people who seek our protection in this way. The Prime Minister's claim that we have to 'protect our borders' and 'our sovereignty' (from these vulnerable people) is ludicrous and must be challenged.

Our international obligations under the Refugee Convention, and basic humanity compel us to provide protection for people seeking asylum, and to assess their claims for refugee status in a fair and timely manner. Leaving people in limbo on Nauru and Manus Island is punitive and unnecessary. We are knowingly destroying these people. We cannot claim to be a fair and decent country while we are intentionally violating the rights and dignity of others.

Permanent resettlement on Nauru is not feasible - asylum seekers are consigned to a life of dependence and hopelessness. There are no jobs, they are at high risk of abuse (especially children and women), there is poor education and no secure jobs. Their right to a future for themselves and their children is being denied.

It is not sufficient to 'consider individual cases' – Nauru is not a suitable place for these people. They must be allowed to remain in Australia, and those on Nauru should be brought here to have their claims for refugee status assessed fairly, and resettlement offered to them.

Peter Dutton's claim that we are protecting people from the 'ruthless' people smugglers rings hollow – our treatment of asylum seekers is entirely ruthless. Australia is 'buying' Nauru's co-operation with the offshore arrangement at huge cost, and in large part propping up the Nauruan economy. The arrangement is not sustainable in any sense, and amounts to a form of people trafficking, a trade in misery.

Peter Dutton says he wants to treat people in a humane way. There is no humanity in consigning people to languish indefinitely on Nauru – or Manus Island.

It is a nonsense to trumpet our generosity to refugees while we are keeping people in a 'torturous' situation on Nauru. Though they may not be in a locked environment, but 'freedom isn't freedom when there's nothing left to lose'.

It is argued that this intentional cruelty is necessary to stop other people seeking asylum from getting on boats and risking their lives at sea. However we continue to turn back boats (which clearly are still coming) with no care about what happens to those on the boats – for all we know people on turned back boats are drowning anyway.

I call on you and all your parliamentary colleagues to exercise your conscience on this matter and put a stop to this abuse of vulnerable men, women and children. It cannot go on. Please stand up now and demand that we find a more humane response which is in keeping with the espoused Australian values of 'a fair go' for all.

**CONTACT DETAILS :**

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**The Hon. Peter Dutton MP**, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection  
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Please also send a copy to your local Federal MP as well – if you are not sure who they are or have their contact details, you can use this search tool:

<https://secure.animalsaustralia.org/action/find-your-federal-MP.php>

To send a general message to all MPs and Senators ( well worth doing) you can copy all MP email addresses into the Bcc field and address your email Dear MP, and do likewise for Senators, addressing them as Dear Senator. Copy from lists below – or use the attached lists if you want to send different emails to Labor and Lib etc.

**ALL MPs**

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