



World Social Justice Day

No More Children in Detention Centers

February 20, 2011

Good Shepherd Mission & Justice



The theme for this day is "A Society For All"

Good Shepherd Mission & Justice believe that justice for all means ending mandatory detention for women and children in Australia.

The United Nations declared 20 February as World Day of Social Justice to celebrate, galvanise and further the goals of the [Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development](#).

You can find a download of these at goodshep.net.au/just_reflecting/20Feb2011.html

Facts

- As of Feb 2011 there are **1065 children under 18 living in immigration detention facilities around Australia.**
- This is the highest ever number of children in detention; in Australia - the previous high was 822 under the Howard Government.
- More children are coming by boat because of the slow process of applications.
- **More than 92%** of all children arriving by boat since 1999 have been recognised by Australian authorities to be **genuine refugees**. In the case of Iraqi children the figures are as high as 98%.
- Families undertake dangerous journeys as a last resort. Asylum seekers are fleeing fear and persecution.



Thoughts

On this day- we think about each and every child in detention, as a small person needing love and justice. 'they' are not a group or collection or problem. **Children are children wherever they are.** We need to remember that, and treat them with the love and care we show our own children.
(Jacinta- mother of Brigid and

'It is very sad to see how asylum seekers are thought to be dangerous people, queue jumpers and illegal, ... **People who think this way don't know the circumstances in which these families are forced to find safety in dangerous places,** they fail to see the tragedy that forced the women and children to leave their families, their homes, their countries and take the journey to seek for a safe place even if that means putting themselves on a different risk, such as losing their lives in a sinking boat.'

Get the full story.

Roberto Morales is available to come and humanise this campaign. [0362054131](tel:0362054131)

Download the [mythbuster sheet](#) and **share** it with someone who mightn't know the facts.

Write to Minister Bowen urging his support to change legislation. Join the Asylum Seeker resource Centre Campaign.

See [Weblinks](#) for further info

(see [weblinks](#) and download page)

Actively giving life the shape of justice