



Asylum Seeker and Refugee Rights

Human Rights Law Centre

Australia's asylum seeker policies violate the human rights of people seeking our protection. They harm people fleeing persecution and they breach international human rights guarantees.

The Asylum Seeker and Refugee Rights Unit of the HRLC promotes and protects the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees in Australia and in offshore Australian facilities.

The HRLC's unique contribution to efforts pursuing a more humane policy approach is its mix of strategic litigation, evidence-based advocacy and targeted capacity building. We have a proven track record of achieving systemic change through our legal and policy work, aiding and adding value to the important grass-roots work of our partner organisations.

Building on our work in this area, over the next three years we will:

Pursue strategic litigation in the local courts of Nauru and PNG, targeting the most acute injustices arising within the offshore processing system and building on our work participating in the PNG National Court's Inquiry into Manus Island.

Take cases of alleged human rights violations to the United Nations, raising Australia's breaches of international law on the world stage, establishing its legal responsibility for actions beyond its borders and increasing international pressure to implement more humane policies.

Work with local practitioners in Nauru and PNG to strengthen their capacity to provide legal support to asylum seekers.

Conduct litigation in Australian courts to establish Australia's responsibility for harm suffered in detention centres on Nauru and Manus and to challenge the use of mandatory, indefinite immigration detention.

Highlight the injustice of our asylum seeker policies in our advocacy targeted towards key decision makers and in our broader public advocacy, drawing on the human stories of asylum seekers transferred offshore.



We focus on high-level action and influence to bring about systemic changes that improve people's lives on the ground. The vast majority of our work is done in strategic partnerships with other organisations where we lend our expertise and influence to advance shared goals.

We leverage significant amounts of pro bono resources to undertake this work, maximizing the impact of our financial resources. For every dollar invested in the HRLC, we leverage around five dollars of pro bono support from leading law firms and barristers.

The Unit applies our significant expertise to respond to the challenges presented by Australia's asylum seeker policies. We undertake short term work to address the most acute injustices and longer term advocacy to improve the system and change public opinion.

We are currently seeking financial contributions to fund the Unit for three years from 1 January 2015.

This will require a total annual investment of:

\$134,900 (Unit Salary & Oncosts \$101,175 + Unit Operating Expenses \$33,725)