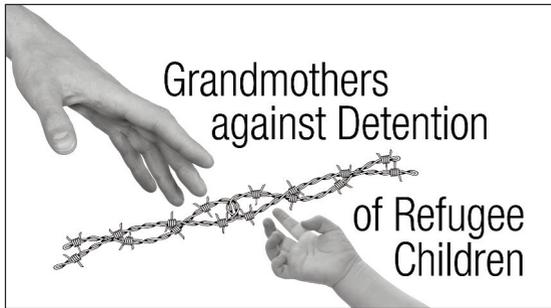


# FREE THE CHILDREN



'Grandmothers against Detention of Refugee Children' endorse the call of the Australian Human Rights Commission to release with their families all asylum-seeker children detained by the Australian government.

We congratulate the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, **Dr Gillian Triggs**, on the release of her report *The Forgotten Children*.

This report details an inquiry conducted between February and October 2014 into the effects upon children held for lengthy periods in immigration detention.

**The main finding of the Inquiry is that the prolonged, mandatory detention of asylum-seeker children causes them significant mental and physical illness and developmental delays, in breach of Australia's international obligations.**

There are still hundreds of children imprisoned in Australia's detention centres, including more than one hundred in the hell-hole of Nauru.

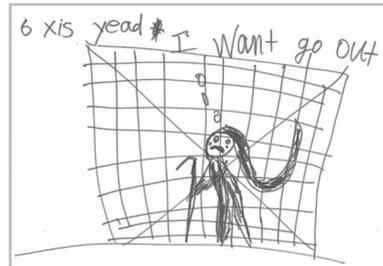
According to Dr Triggs' report, 'children detained indefinitely on Nauru are suffering from extreme levels of physical, emotional, psychological and developmental distress'.

Both Labor and Coalition parties in Federal Parliament share responsibility for these cruel and inhuman policies.

The Abbott government also shows it cannot be trusted. In December 2014 the then Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Scott Morrison, promised to release children from Christmas Island into the community if Senators Muir and Xenophon supported his migration legislation.

Scott Morrison did not keep his promise.

**These children are still in detention in Australia – not in the community.**

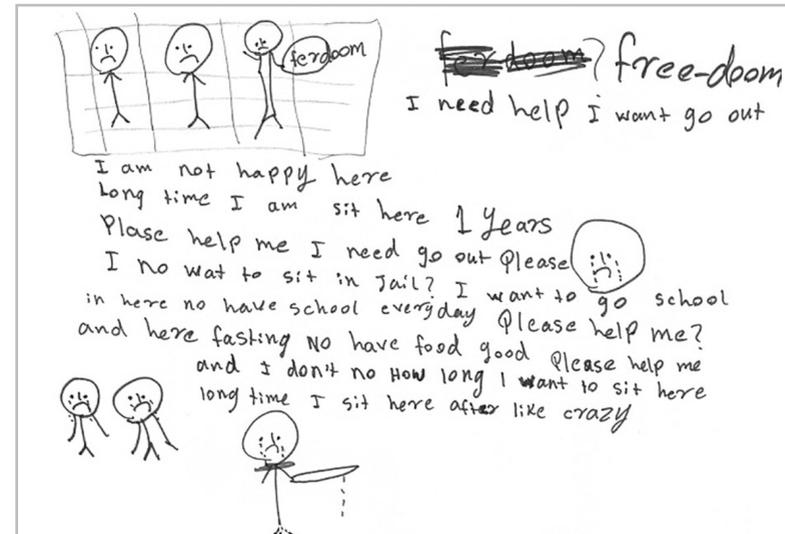


On 13 February 2015 more than two hundred organisations including virtually every church in Australia signed a statement:

**Never again: let's end the detention of children once and for all.**

It states that 'Australia is the only country in the world to detain children as its first option. In the United Kingdom, for example, the number of children simultaneously in UK immigration detention over the past three years has not exceeded four, a tiny fraction of the number detained by Australia. The United Kingdom also has legislative limits on the detention of children which restrict the detention of families with children in pre-removal centres to a maximum of 72 hours, or seven days if authorised by the responsible minister'.

**Let's end Australia's disgrace. Take action for refugee children now.**



Drawing by an asylum-seeker child. It was released by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

**Tell your member of parliament that you demand refugee children, their families and unaccompanied minors be released into the Australian community – NOW!**

Here's how to do it.

To find your local member:

Type into Google –  
**Find your local MP**  
then add postcode

To find Senators:

Type into Google –  
**Senators Australia list**

**Also contact the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, The Hon Peter Dutton MP at [peter.dutton.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:peter.dutton.mp@aph.gov.au)**

**'Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children' demand that these children with their families should be freed immediately into the community.**



Website: [www.grandmothersadrc.org](http://www.grandmothersadrc.org)  
Contact us: [grandmothersref@gmail.com](mailto:grandmothersref@gmail.com)

### DONATIONS

**1. Please send to:**  
Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children, Carlton LPO, PO Box 1279, Carlton Vic 3053.

**2. Please deposit:**  
National Australia Bank  
Account Name: Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children. BSB No: 083 170  
Account No: 8381 33480

February 2015

# ACTION NEEDED NOW!