

## Human Rights – Refugees

Imagine yourself in a country you barely even know how to pronounce. You are miles and miles away from home, you don't know where your family is, if they're safe, if they're alive. You have a limited amount of food and very little water that you have to share with hundreds of other desperate and unhappy strangers. You are being controlled by an unfamiliar person who is telling you when and what to eat, and when and where you have to sleep. This was supposed to be better. You were supposed to escape the horror, that's why you left your family and your home, but you are proven to be just as hopeful and let down as every other crushed soul in this prison they call a refugee camp.

Every day in a refugee camp there are tears of devastation for fear that these innocent people trying to escape the horror in their own countries are rather going to go back home and live in fear, or even worse, staying where they are.

The government have put these detention centres in place thinking that it is the right thing to do, but is it really? Fair enough they want to protect Australia from terrorism, but really, statistics have shown that 97% of Iraqis and 93% of Afghans are genuine refugees with no plan of attack. Is it really fair to keep thousands of people locked up and miserable for the fear of a tiny 3% attacking?

Australia may have its problems, but how would some of the politics like to live like these people do? Australia is wasting all this money on nuclear bombs and plastic surgery and fast food, when there are these refugees that could do with maybe a little more food and water. At the moment Australia are receiving around 4,000 refugees a year and these refugees have to share one tank of water to wash and drink with, could you live like this?

Under the UN refugee convention there is a law that states that Australia has an obligation to look at the refugee claims, they are not illegal immigrants. The real illegal people are the ones that have overstayed their visas, yet the government still seem to show lack of respect and sympathy towards the refugees by giving them no freedom at all. For instance refugees have such limited access to services such as telephones and are not allowed to leave the camp, where as in Sweden the refugees are allowed to live in civilisation whilst waiting for their claims to go through.

Our government are also holding children in these camps for years on end, but in other countries they will not hold a child for longer than six days.

"We've boundless lands to share...." Recognise that line? Believe it or not but that's from our national anthem. We are barely sharing our lands, and Australia is supposed to be a loving country.

Somebody needs to stand up to the government, spread the word about what they are doing. They are getting physically and mentally abused in those camps and nobody is doing anything simply because nobody really knows what's happening. It is illegal to abuse somebody; the government apparently will not tolerate it, so why are they abusing these refugees? I believe that these people deserve the same amount of respect as anybody else; they are still humans with feelings. It almost seems like the Australian government are contradicting themselves with their laws and beliefs.