

# Children, Families and other Immigrants in Detention Centres

By Lisa Kelly

Children and their families from all over the world, come to Australia fleeing from terrorist attacks and war, to start a new life in safety and freedom. I don't understand why me, or my little brother or any other kids from Australia, have the rights to liberty and freedom, while kids who come to Australia hoping for the same rights are put into detention centres, and sent back to another 3<sup>rd</sup> world country. Why should the children in Australia be allowed these rights, while children and their families from 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries are not?

These kids and their families come to Australia to seek refuge and a place to live, where they can be assured safety and not have to endure any more of the repulsion they already have. They may have come to Australia illegally without any paperwork they might need to enter our country, but just imagine the fear you would feel at the sound of bombs exploding down your street and all around you, the distressing sight of bodies being pulled out of the rubble and onto stretchers, the thought that one of your family members or friends could be on one of those stretchers. I know that if I was in a situation like that, I would do anything I could to get my family and I, out of there before someone got hurt or killed; even if it meant shipping us all to another country illegally. When these families and young children are put into the detention centres and begin the long wait until their resettlement, they will probably have to wait for 2-4 years and over until they will be allowed the freedom they so longingly hoped for.

2-4 years! Imagine being parted from a close family member for that long and not knowing when you would be able to see them again. This imprisonment of children and other immigrants is an act against articles 9,8,12,13,14 and 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These rights were agreed to by all of the global presidents and yet 6 of them are being broken on this issue alone. That's like breaking more than 6 rules. There should be another way to have these children processed to become

Australians. They could be kept in the community and cared for until they can be reunited with their parents and family. We need to consider all of the options and ideas to come up with a more humane and fair way to fix this problem. Children are delicate and if broken, it could scar them forever. Is the impression of locking kids up in detention centres what we want to make all immigrants think of when they come to Australia? You and I both know that justice needs to be served.

These families and immigrants may have come to our shores illegally but we should be flattered that of all the countries to seek refuge in, they chose Australia. All these families and people ask for is a chance, a fair go, a place to live in safety and happiness. Seeing as we are Australians and know how great it is to live in this country, I say that we should give these immigrants that chance, that fair go, the same rights that we are certified, the same feeling of what its like to be a true Australian.