

Some Recent Advocacy for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The [Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace](#) and the [Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office](#) often receive inquiries about what the Catholic bishops are saying and doing about issues affecting refugees and asylum seekers. Here are some examples of advocacy undertaken during 2022. Your help to make them better known would be appreciated.

May 2022

Federal Election Resource

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference raised the need for “a just, humane and timely system for assessing claims for asylum” in their Federal Election resource [Towards a Better Kind of Politics](#), and they affirmed that “anyone who is forced to flee to protect their lives or human dignity has a moral claim on our assistance, whether they fit legal definitions of a refugee or not”.

Media Statement

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta and Chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference’s Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service, together with Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane and Bishop

Greg O’Kelly, Bishop Emeritus of Port Pirie signed a [Faith Leaders Statement](#) urging political leaders to reconsider the needs and futures of people who are still on Temporary Protection Visas.

April 2022

Media Statement

As a member organization of the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA), the ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace supported a [media statement](#) welcoming the release of about 23 refugees, some of whom had been detained for close to nine years, from onshore detention facilities including Melbourne’s Park Hotel. The statement also called for the immediate release of all remaining people in onshore detention who were medically transferred to Australia from PNG and Nauru.

March 2022

Media Statement

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference’s Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service issued a [media statement](#) welcoming the Government’s decision to see up

to 450 asylum-seekers resettled in New Zealand, while reiterating that hundreds more need to be offered a pathway out of detention.

Media Statement

As a member organization of the CAPSA, the ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace supported a [media statement](#) welcoming the Federal Government's provision of 16,500 additional humanitarian places over four years for refugees seeking protection from the ongoing Afghanistan crisis. The statement also expressed concern that the Federal Government continues to allocate significant funding into Australia's inhumane offshore immigration detention regime, and that minimal supports have been allocated for people seeking asylum and refugees living in the community.

February 2022

Media Statement

In a [media statement](#), Archbishop Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane and then President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, said that, as with other countries that have known war in recent years, most recently Afghanistan, "a generous response by the Australian government is needed to help people fleeing violence in Ukraine".

January 2022

Media Statement

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service issued a [media statement](#) calling for at

least 20,000 additional humanitarian places for people fleeing Afghanistan.

Media Statement

As a member organization of the CAPSA, the ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace supported a CAPSA [media statement](#) criticizing the Federal Government's announcement of at least 15,000 places over four years for people fleeing the crisis in Afghanistan, through existing Humanitarian and Family Visa programs, as an inadequate response. CAPSA called instead for the allocation of at least 20,000 additional places.

Note

Many aspects of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement 2015-2016, [For Those Who've Come Across the Seas](#) remain relevant today.

