

Kannon Day 2019: Action for Nauru and Manus Island refugees



In 2013, the Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd announced that any refugees arriving in Australia by boat would be detained on Manus Island or other offshore processing centres. Even if they proved to be “genuine refugees”, the government declared that they would have “no chance” of ever coming to Australia. Thousands of refugees and asylum seekers, including young children, were caught in this inhumane offshore processing system and have suffered six years of neglect, abuse and trauma since then.

Last year we wrote letters (as part of the [#kidsOffNauru](#) campaign) for the 119 children and their families detained indefinitely on the island of Nauru, calling for them to be moved to safety and permanence in New Zealand, Australia or elsewhere. In February 2019, [news came that all refugee children have now been taken off Nauru](#). However, the case is not closed as many still face an uncertain future with no permanent settlement solution. [Children shifted to Australia are still being treated punitively, excluded from education and work opportunities](#). We need to continue to advocate for the refugee children who have been taken to Australia for medical treatment and don't have permanent settlement solutions, for a resolution to be found for them, whether that be settlement in Australia, New Zealand or elsewhere.

As well, there are approximately 800 adults (men and women) who are still indefinitely detained in Australia's offshore processing system on Manus and Nauru. They are [trapped in a limbo](#) and have lost 6 long years of their freedom, health and dignity to detention, just for seeking asylum.

This year we are joining with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in a Freedom Bird campaign to call for an end to this traumatic system.

Craft hope with a freedom bird

This campaign demands urgent resettlement for all refugees and asylum seekers on Manus and Nauru. We also call for urgent settlement pathways for all the children from Nauru now in Australia, so that they can finally have safe, permanent homes in welcoming communities.

1. Craft a Freedom Bird, write a message on its wings and take a photo of it in your palm, post on your social media with #FreedomBirds and tag @ScottMorrison
2. Post to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, include your name and postcode in a note along with the origami bird folded flat in an envelope.

PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

3. Post the response you receive from the PM's office on social media using #FreedomBirds



- IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE USE RECYCLED PAPER (OLD WRAPPING PAPER, KID'S ART, ETC.).

