



Fair Go for Families: A Campaign for Family Reunion

Family Picnic Pack

Overview

Across Australia, thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum face the heartbreaking struggle of not knowing when they will see their families again, or if their loved ones are safe. This causes huge damage to communities and serious psychological, social and financial harm to families.

The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) are calling on the Australian Government to resolve this issue and give families a fair go.

We had conversations with refugees and people seeking asylum all around Australia and they told us that this was their biggest problem. You can read the full report here:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/RCOA-Report-Family-Reunion-11-16-WEB.pdf>

Here are **three ways in which you can help**:

1. **Take the pledge** to show your support for family reunion and call on Malcolm Turnbull to support a #FairGoForFamilies because families are #BetterTogether:
<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/fairgo>
2. **Donate to RCOA** to help us call on MPs to support our recommendations on refugee family reunion <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/fairgo-donate/>
3. **Attend or host a Fair Go for Families Picnic** on or around World Human Rights Day on the 10th December to celebrate the importance of families and raise awareness in your local community.

Existing events: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/events/>

Host your own: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/event/fairgoforfamilies-picnic/>





Hosting a Fair Go for Families Picnic

We are asking groups and individuals to host picnics to raise awareness about, and show support for refugee family reunion. This could involve:

- Families and friends getting together for picnics;
- A photo/video station with posters where people can write and read statements like:
 - Families are #BetterTogether, I support Family Reunion for people seeking asylum and refugees.
 - I support a #FairGo For Families, Malcolm Turnbull, do you?
 - I love my family because...
 - Families are #BetterTogether because...
 - We all love our families – no one deserves to be separated from theirs.
- Attendees tweeting their photos to @TurnbullMalcolm and @PeterDutton_MP
- Sending photos and videos to RCOA to be used on our website and social media to show the huge support for this issue.
- Invite a diverse range of local community members – church groups, businesses, schools etc.
- Invite your local MP to engage them on this issue. They are likely to be encouraged by the idea of a picnic!
- Invite speakers along- we can help to connect you with people with refugee background in your area. Members of the Refugee Council may be able to attend depending on location and date.



Please use the following hashtags and twitter handles

#BetterTogether

@Ozrefugeecounc

#FairGo

@TurnbullMalcolm



Talking Points

These picnics should be relaxed and casual and aimed at remembering the importance of family. You may want to make a small announcement to explain what the picnic is about and how people can get more involved in the campaign (as above).

- This is a huge issue for people of refugee background. For many years, the issue most commonly raised with us by people of refugee background has been **family separation** and the desire for family reunion.
- Successful settlement is not possible without family reunion. Imagine not being able to watch your kids grow up or kiss them goodnight, or never knowing when you might see your family again. Family separation has devastating psychological, social and financial impacts.
- The current government policy is causing great anxiety. For those who have the right to apply, the waiting time can be years, even decades.
- Talk about the different stories of individuals- you may wish to read some of these out. You can find them at: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/fairgo>
- Although the issue is sad, this should be a happy occasion. At this time of year, it's important for us to remember the importance our families and talk about what they mean to us. In doing so, we can call for all families to have that right.

Next Steps

If you have further questions, contact the campaigns team at RCOA:

Samuel.dariol@refugeecouncil.org.au

Laura.stacey@refugeecouncil.org.au

Alternatively register your picnic here and we will be in touch shortly:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/event/fairgoforfamilies-picnic/>
