



Refugee Council
of Australia

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Refugee Council of Australia's formal positions on matters of public policy are based on the following principles:

- 1. Justice and the rule of law** Maintaining a rigorous commitment to justice and the rule of law, in line with the principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Refugee Convention, the Conventions on Statelessness and other core international human rights treaties.
- 2. Lived experience** Giving priority to the views, concerns and ideas of refugees and people seeking asylum, privileging their views over the views of people with greater power and influence, emphasising their right to be represented when decisions are being made about their future.
- 3. Respecting diversity** Respecting the diversity within all populations of forcibly displaced people, ensuring that specific attention is given to the needs, concerns and perspectives of people who are even more marginalised because of their race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, identity, faith, or sexuality.
- 4. Inclusion and respect** Promoting a vision of Australia based on inclusion and respect, advocating against policies which exclude or stigmatise, undermine human dignity or punish people for political purposes.
- 5. Shared responsibility** Advocating for appropriate sharing of responsibility between nations for people requiring protection, paying particular attention to Australia's current and potential role.
- 6. Non-partisan and collective perspectives** Developing non-partisan positions based on broad consultation and evidence-based research. providing leadership by authentically representing a collective view of RCOA's members and refugee communities in Australia on matters relevant to the organisation's mandate.

Adopted by the Board of the Refugee Council of Australia

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