



Refugee Council
of Australia

PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPING RCOA POLICY POSITIONS

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

1. 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 treaties¹.
2. 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. Acknowledging the diversity within 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 gender, age, disability or identity.
4. 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. Advocating for appropriate sharing of responsibility between nations for people requiring protection, paying particular attention to Australia's current and potential role.
6. 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
November 2017*

¹ The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights lists nine core international human rights instruments: [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination \(ICERD\)](#), [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\)](#), [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ICESCR\)](#), [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), [Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment \(CAT\)](#), [Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\)](#), [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families \(CMW\)](#), [International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance \(CED\)](#) and [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#). See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CoreInstruments.aspx>

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