

## Issue for November 2021:

### End of PNG Contract - 1 January 2022 - Resettlement solution for refugees in PNG

The ARAN Letter-Blitz is supported by ARAN, RAR, G4R, & NARN

Available to download at - <https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/rar-groups/online-group/>



*Ian Rintoul (right) on Manus Island with Abdul Aziz Muhamat and Behrouz Boochani ...  
the Australian offshore centre in PNG was declared illegal five years ago, but 124 refugees remain in limbo.  
Image: Behrouz Boochani*

Included in this kit is the information you need to create your own letters or use the proformas

- Guide and Background notes prepared by ARAN's Letter Writing Network.
- One proforma letter that you can copy (and personalise) to send by post or email.
- Postal Addresses for MPs and Senators
- Email addresses for MPs and Senators

#### Personalised letters are best –

- You might like to use the **AIDA** principle
  - **A - Attention** - grab the recipient's attention. Say something positive about the reader that is directed towards the focus of your letter. Stimulate the recipient's curiosity
  - **I - Interest & Information** - encourage the recipient to read on.
  - **D - Desire** - Getting the reader to want to do what you are seeking - in their interest to do so.
  - **A - Action** - inform the reader of the action you want them to take.

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Regards,

The ARAN Letter Writing Network

[austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com)

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR **End of PNG Contract - 1 January 2022**

Choose 2 or 3 dot points to use in your letter.

Paraphrase these using your own words.

PNG

- Australia and PNG governments have announced that the Regional Resettlement Arrangement will end on 1 January 2022
- 124 refugees and asylum seekers in PNG fear they will be abandoned after 8 years
- The process by which PNG decided if a person was a refugee lacked many safeguards - for example, it did not include the right to choose one's lawyer or the right to the information needed to ensure independent and fair decision-making. It was also complex and opaque.
- Many of these people fled from Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka - some are stateless
- The PNG government will now need to deal directly with other countries regarding resettlement - e.g. Canada and NZ
- Although New Zealand offered 150 places for refugees in 2013, **and this offer remains on the table**, this offer has never been accepted. If the Australian government accepted this, it would provide a durable resettlement solution for all the refugees still stranded in PNG.
- New Zealand has given \$2.7 million to help care for those on Manus Island.
- The offshore processing by Australia has
  - Harmed innocent refugees and people seeking asylum
  - Damaged Australia's international reputation
  - Been costly in both human and financial terms

*RCOA chief executive officer Paul Power said the joint announcement by the governments of Australia and PNG that the Regional Resettlement Arrangement between the two nations will end on 1 January 2022 leaves the 124 refugees and asylum seekers remaining in PNG fearing that they will be abandoned after eight years of suffering.*

*“The refugees who have been Australia’s political pawns for more than eight years need international assistance from nations with a more principled approach to the protection of people at risk,” Mr Power said. “Australia’s offshore processing policy has always been based on imposing on the good will of other nations and the nations which have shown the greatest good will – the United States, Canada and New Zealand – are the nations to which PNG and the abandoned refugees must now turn to following today’s announcement. We would encourage the government of PNG to deal directly with these nations now that Australia’s capacity to block constructive solutions is diminished.*

*“This offshore processing agreement has brought international disgrace to Australia from the day it was announced by the Rudd Labor Government in July 2013. No one then would have been pessimistic enough to imagine that refugees sent to detention on Manus Island would still be stuck in limbo more than eight years later.*

*“It is laughable for the Australian Government to pretend that it no longer has any responsibility for people it transferred to PNG. After spending more than \$9 billion of taxpayers’ money on regional processing in PNG and Nauru, 14 people have died, more than 1,000 recognised refugees subject to this policy are still waiting in limbo for resettlement, and Australia’s reputation has been stained.*

*“We are leaving PNG with responsibility for people who have been ill-treated for eight years, some of them quite broken by the experience. We don’t want to see people being thrown on to the streets to be supported by charities, as is currently happening to hundreds of people transferred to Australia.”*

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## References:

- <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/us-canada-and-nz-support-needed-as-australia-abandons-refugees-in-png/>
- <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/operation-sovereign-borders-offshore-detention-statistics/>
- <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/offshore-processing-facts/>
- <https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20130220163214/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/121064/20130221-0004/www.pm.gov.au/press-office/joint-statement-prime-ministers-key-and-gillard-february-2013.html>
- <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/jacinda-ardern-new-zealand-will-give-27m-to-manus-and-nauru-refugees-20171115-gzlj5m.html>

## **Key request (SELECT ONE or TWO)**

- Immediately bring to Australia all people still being detained on Nauru and in PNG.
- Enable those in the offshore program but already in Australia (medically evacuated) to remain here until a durable solution has been found.
- As a matter of urgency, humanitarian resettlement solutions need to be found for all.
- Accept the New Zealand resettlement offer for refugees in PNG.

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**It is suggested that this month's letters be directed to  
your local MP, and to Federal Senators in your state**

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## **Addresses for your letters:**

### **Canberra Postal Address for all Senators**

PO Box 6100  
Senate,  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### **Canberra Postal Address for all MPs**

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

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## **Send a copy of your letters to your local MP**

Dear ... ... (insert the name of your local MP)

Re: ... ... ... ... (insert the issue)

Please find attached copies of my letters to

1. ... ... ... (insert the names of MPs/Senators you have written to)
2. ... ... ...

Yours sincerely

Name:

Address:

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**Postal and Email Addresses for MP's local Electoral offices can be found here:**

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Guidelines\\_for\\_Contacting\\_Senators\\_and\\_Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members)

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### **Email addresses for all Senators**

**Email addresses for all **ACT** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:**

[senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au); [senator.seselja@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.seselja@aph.gov.au)

**Email addresses for all **NSW** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:**

[senator.ayres@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ayres@aph.gov.au); [senator.bragg@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.bragg@aph.gov.au); [senator.davey@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.davey@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au); [senator.fierravanti-wells@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.fierravanti-wells@aph.gov.au); [senator.hughes@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hughes@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.keneally@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.keneally@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcallister@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcallister@aph.gov.au); [senator.molan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.molan@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.oneill@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.oneill@aph.gov.au); [senator.payne@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.payne@aph.gov.au); [senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au);

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**Email addresses for all **Queensland** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:**

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[senator.hanson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hanson@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcgrath@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcgrath@aph.gov.au);  
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[senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au); [senator.gallacher@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.gallacher@aph.gov.au); [senator.griff@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.griff@aph.gov.au);  
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[senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au); [senator.chandler@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.chandler@aph.gov.au); [senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.duniam@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.duniam@aph.gov.au); [senator.lambie@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.lambie@aph.gov.au); [senator.mckim@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mckim@aph.gov.au);  
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[senator.smith@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.smith@aph.gov.au); [senator.steele-john@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.steele-john@aph.gov.au); [senator.sterle@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sterle@aph.gov.au)

**NOTE: If you are sending an email be sure to include your NAME and ADDRESS**

**Email addresses for MPs and Senators - <https://aran.net.au/resources/letter-writing/>**

The Subject line of your email could be - **CALL TO ACTION - PNG**

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## PROFORMA LETTER: End of PNG Contract - 1 January 2022

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Dear Senator

Eight years ago, people in desperation came to Australia by sea hoping for safety. Instead, they were forcibly transported to PNG, or to the tiny island state of Nauru.

For almost a decade, people have been held in violation of their human rights, despite the stream of objections raised by United Nations representatives and advocates in Australia.

The offshore system was established for processing claims for asylum and organising resettlement; it was never intended as a long-term solution.

These people were suffering before they came and their treatment by Australia has been cruel, degrading and very damaging. Deliberate bureaucratic dehumanising has attempted to strip them of their names, separate families, and isolate them. This has caused serious illness, and great despair.

Persistent and endlessly punishment of individuals for the sake of political gain is not justice.

Of the 3129 people sent to PNG and Nauru since 2013, only a little over 1000 have been given durable resettlement: 977 to the US, 7 to Canada, and 28 to other resettlement countries.

(<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/operation-sovereign-borders-offshore-detention-statistics/>)

The Australian government recently signed an agreement with the PNG government under which PNG will have full responsibility for the 125 remaining men from 1 January 2022.

These men will be given only two choices: to stay in PNG, or be transferred to Nauru.

Australia is failing in its obligations under the UNCHR Refugee Convention. It cannot simply wash its hands of the people it sent to PNG.

It is never too late to stop the suffering of these people.

The Morrison government must:

1. Immediately bring to Australia all people still being detained on Nauru and in PNG
2. Enable those in the offshore program but already in Australia (medically evacuated) to remain here, while
3. As a matter of urgency, humanitarian resettlement solutions are found for all.

Let's show some humanity to these human beings who have done nothing illegal, but fell under our power and have suffered so much.

Sincerely,

(name)  
(address)

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