

THE KATOOMBA DECLARATION

Declaration from the Rural Australians for Refugees Conference, 16-18 September 2022, in Katoomba

The Rural Australians for Refugees 2022 Conference declares that there is still much work to do to win the compassion and rights to which refugees are entitled.

Conference honours the leadership shown by refugees and people with lived experience seeking asylum.

Conference considers a systemic and permanent change is needed in this country's refugee story, so that anti-racism and human rights are upheld.

Conference confirmed the call in RAR's 2018 Wodonga Declaration for a Charter of Human Rights which would implement international human rights provisions through national legislation.

Conference endorsed the Kaldor Centre Principles for Australian Refugee Policy.

Conference called for these steps being taken without delay:

1. #Action for Afghanistan: issue all the proposed 16,500 humanitarian visas, and a further 20,000 emergency visas, for asylum seekers from Afghanistan;
2. End all forms of inhumane detention, include offshore detention, and indefinite detention, including a resolution to purported statelessness;
3. End the ban on refugees in Indonesia re-settling in Australia;
4. Enable asylum seekers in Australia to live with dignity, including having access to Medicare and rights to study and work; and
5. Support additional community-pathways to settlement, for which the government takes responsibility for visa and travel costs.

Conference resolved RAR will work with supporters of refugees and refugee rights on a campaign for a Royal Commission into offshore and onshore immigration detention.

Conference supported the Ending Indefinite and Arbitrary Immigration Detention Bill 2022.

Conference emphasised seeking common aims and the intersection of aims, and work towards a coordinated approach, among refugees and their supporters.