

Senator Chris Evans
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Senator Evans,

We are deeply heartened by your recent public statements that the current system of denying some asylum seekers the right to work was indefensible and that we need a more caring approach. We're also pleased to hear of your continued commitment to ending the TPV regime. We thank you for moving swiftly to end the 'Pacific Solution'; for seeking to address the legacy cases and for reviewing long-term detainees. Minister we do appreciate that you want to understand the system before tinkering with it and we realise that some of the problems with our refugee system require more time to review before acting.

However, Minister, many of the problems with our refugee system are already well-documented and easily remedied now. We ask for your immediate action on the following:

End Temporary Protection Visas;

End the arbitrary 45-day rule. Let all asylum seekers work and have access to healthcare while their case is being decided at all stages (including the Ministerial stage); and

Release all long-term detainees left languishing in our detention centres (unless there are character concerns).

The consequences for asylum seekers with each passing month of inaction are dire and unacceptable. Bridging Visa Es are inhumane and unjust, forcing people into a life of despair, destitution and homelessness. More than 1500 people on TPVs/THVs remain in limbo without their families. Those left in our detention centres have become mere living ghosts and broken men.

We implore you to act on these issues now and to address all the problems outlined by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in their 'Fix our Refugee System' Campaign.

Thank you for considering our request.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____
