



## **ADD YOUR VOICE TO CLOSE MANUS AND CLOSE NAURU!**

DASSAN will submit this petition to the Australian Parliament when it next sits, scheduled for 13 February 2019.

As you probably know, the Senate passed Kerry Phelp's MP's *Migration Amendment (Urgent Medical Treatment) Bill 2018* on 6 December 2018. If this Bill is also passed by the House of Representatives, scheduled to vote on it on 13 February 2019, it will amend the *Migration Act 1958* to better compel the government to bring sick refugees and asylum seekers from Papua New Guinea and Nauru to Australia for medical treatment.

If Parliament sits as planned, presenting this petition in Parliament will coincide with the vote on the *Urgent Medical Treatment Bill*.

Your signature on this petition will count as one more voice for change.

The petition reads as follows:

### **TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of the Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network (DASSAN) and the undersigned members of the public –

Draws to the attention of the House:

Australian policy has exiled asylum seekers and refugees since 19 July 2013 to Manus Island in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Nauru. There they are held involuntarily and indefinitely in harsh and dangerous conditions. To save lives, this cruel policy must end immediately. Twelve men have died. The humanitarian crisis and medical emergency is escalating daily. Suicide ideation is widespread, suicide attempts are frequent, and everyone is physically and mentally unwell. Australia's continuation of this 'offshore processing' regime contravenes the UN 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the UN 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and we allege breaches the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* and its incorporation into Australian law in the *Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)*, and the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)*. It is in the public interest to uphold the rule of law and redeem Australia's international reputation by an immediate change of policy.

We therefore ask the House to:

Immediately –

- Close all detention centres and holding accommodation on Manus Island and Nauru.
- Bring to Australia all refugees and asylum-seekers remaining in PNG and Nauru to live in community with appropriate health care and support to rebuild their lives.
- Accept New Zealand's offer to resettle refugees, regardless of the status of the *Migration Legislation Amendment (Regional Processing Cohort) Bill 2016*.