

Christos Tsiolkas

Australian Author

Message to the ASRC



“I think the question of asylum and refuge is the political and ethical issue of our age. In hindsight our globalised moment will be judged by how we treated the enormous number of stateless and displaced people seeking lives free of political, religious, cultural and, *just as importantly*, economic oppression. At the turn of the millennium I personally felt gutted by the fanning of xenophobic and racist fears in the media and how my government was incarcerating and demonising asylum seekers, some of the most vulnerable people on the planet. It was then that I first became of the ASRC. I realised very early that the work the ASRC does is crucial in ensuring support and advocacy for asylum seekers. I feel a responsibility to offer my support any way I can.

“How will we be judged by time? As a child of migrants I feel the burden of this question even more acutely. Euripides wrote over two thousand years ago that ‘there is no greater sorrow on earth than the loss of one’s native land.’ The migrant, the refugee, they most certainly know this. The truth is, whatever the lies we may tell ourselves, we *all* know this.”

Biography

Christos Tsiolkas was born in Melbourne in 1965. *LOADED*, his first novel was published in 1995 and later made into the award-winning film *HEAD ON*. In 1996 he collaborated with Sasha Soldatow on the dialogue *JUMP CUTS*. His novel *THE JESUS MAN* was published in 1999. His critically acclaimed novel *DEAD EUROPE* was published in 2005 and in 2008 he reached bestselling status with the bold *THE SLAP* which won the Commonwealth Writers Prize and was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award.

