

## What is Labor trying to do?

In the last sitting week of Parliament for 2024, Labor is attempting to rush through three damaging Bills that will attack the freedom, human rights and safety of migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum.

If successful, Labor's Brutal Bills will be responsible for the most inhumane, significant change to the way we treat refugees since offshore detention was introduced.

### Key dates:

**Monday 25th November:** The Albanese Government has listed the Mobile Phone Ban Bill (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) for debate and vote in the House of Representatives. *The Government has the majority numbers in the House of Representatives and it is expected this Bill will pass.*

**Tuesday, 26 November:** Senate Committee returns its report on the Deportation and Expanded Offshore Detention Bill (Migration Amendment Bill 2024)

**Wednesday 27th, November:** The Government has included three bills for debate as a package and vote in the Senate, meaning all three could pass at once. (Mobile Phone Ban Bill, Deportation and Expanded Offshore Detention Bill AND the Entry Ban and Deportation Bill). *They do not have a majority in the Senate and will need support from the Coalition or Greens and crossbench to pass.*

## What are Labor's Brutal Bills?

### 1. Deportation and Expanded Offshore Detention Bill

*Migration Amendment Bill 2024*

This harmful Bill gives the Government unjustified powers to:

- Deport people to unspecified third countries such as Nauru where they may face serious harm. If people don't willingly go they can be re-detained in Australia
- Overturn people's protection findings
- Permanently separate people from their families and communities in Australia
- Breach the privacy of refugees and people seeking asylum by providing personal information to third countries for potential misuse
- Absolve itself of accountability for harm caused to people sent offshore

[More information on the Bill](#)

### 2. Mobile Phone Ban Bill

*Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2024*

This Bill will strip away the basic human rights of people held in detention even further by:

- Expanding the basis for invasive and degrading strip searches
- Allowing the Minister to determine that almost any item is prohibited - this Bill specifically raises mobile phones
- Giving officers more powers to conduct searches without any suspicion of prohibited items being present

- Allow the Minister to issue blanket orders about the seizure of certain items - i.e. banning mobile phone from all people in detention
- Restrict people in detention's right to access support and connect with family

[More information on the Bill](#)

### **3. Entry Ban and Deportation Bill**

*Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024*

This Bill stalled in the Senate earlier this year due to community and public pressure. However, despite overwhelming evidence from legal experts, community leaders, advocates and people with lived experience about the damage this Bill would cause to communities across Australia - Labor is trying to pass this Bill once again.

If successful, this Bill will:

- Give the Minister powers to ban people from certain countries (that are designated as a "removal concern country") from entering Australia
- Give the Minister powers to compel people to cooperate with their own deportation or face criminal charges a jail sentence of up to five years. This would include facing criminal charges for failing to take actions such as signing a document or attending an interview
- Result in families being permanently separated. Australian citizen family members, including children, could be permanently separated from non-citizen parents and loved ones
- Puts people at high risk of being deported to harm, persecution and even death

[More information on the Bill](#)

### **Who will this Legislation impact?**

Labor's Brutal Bills will create suffering and distress across thousands of refugee, people seeking asylum and migrant families and communities right across Australia.

Those most at risk include:

- An estimated 75,400 people with no valid visa in the Australian community
- 4,452 people on bridging visa E, so they can make "acceptable arrangements to depart Australia"
- 986 people in immigration detention
- 193 in community detention
- 246 on bridging visa R, released as a result of the high court's NZYQ ruling that indefinite detention is unlawful
- A further 96 people on BVRs that predated that decision
- People from designated countries who would be refused entry to Australia for tourism, or to reunite with their families.

These groups include transitory people many who arrived here for medical treatment from Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

## How can we stop it?

Public pressure works and we've seen it stop Bills in Parliament before. This will take everyone to mobilise and to take a stand against our political leaders making a blatant attack against our democracy and multicultural communities. We need to send a clear message that divisive, and harmful legislation that hurts our communities won't be tolerated.

Ways to take action:

- Share this information with your community and social media networks
- [Contact your local senator](#) and ask that they vote against Labor's Brutal Bills in their entirety
- Write a letter to the editor or reach out your local paper
- Contact ASRC if you'd like to be a media spokesperson on the issues: [media@asrc.org.au](mailto:media@asrc.org.au)