

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. SAFETY. FOR ALL REFUGEES

***“My hope has
been to find safety,
community, and a
place to call home.”***

Abbas - Human Rights Advocate



You are making a powerful difference

Every day at the ASRC, I see the power of our collective compassion and courage in action. It's in the legal victories that keep families together. It's in the halls of Parliament, where refugees can speak truth to power and change the politics for the better. And it's in the lives of people like Abbas, who never gave up and found a way to keep going – even when the system did everything it could to break them.

Thanks to tireless refugee-led advocacy and our support, Abbas is on a pathway to permanency. But over 7,000 people just like Abbas are still waiting.

Your support helps us fight for fairness, freedom and safety - and stop injustice before it happens. This year alone, we've stopped people being deported at the airport gate, reunited families after decades apart, and won safety for stateless children, women fleeing gender-based violence, and people living with a disability.

One client told us: *"The ASRC was the first place that saw me as a human being. You gave me hope when I had none."*

Thank you for being part of this justice movement. You are helping to protect lives, restore dignity, and ensure that every person seeking asylum gets the safety, fairness and freedom they deserve.

In hope,



Kon Karapanagiotidis
CEO and Founder
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

You're helping people like Abbas **BUILD LIFE IN SAFETY**



"I'm incredibly grateful to finally have a pathway to permanency after more than 12 years of waiting, struggling, and fighting for the chance to live freely and safely in the only home I know."

Thank you for being a part of my journey to safety.

I'll never forget the moment I got the call. It was a normal weekday, but in that instant, everything changed. After years of fear and uncertainty, I finally had a future. I had rights. I had recognition. I could work. I had safety.

It's been such a long journey to get here. I was just 14 years old when my family had to flee Iran. We came by sea and didn't know if we would survive the journey. We were moved through detention centres for years, until we were able to settle in Melbourne.

I started High School and it felt like we had finally found our home. We all felt hopeful for the future. In late 2018, everything changed. We had our interviews with immigration and our protection claims were rejected. Then in 2020, while we were waiting for our appeal, Covid hit and things became even worse.

We couldn't get Medicare or Centrelink. We couldn't work or get any Government assistance, and we struggled to pay rent. This put a lot of pressure on my Dad.

My younger brother also went downhill and it was really hard to watch. He had been in detention so young, and had moved so much, he would cry a lot. Eventually he was diagnosed with PTSD.

My Dad said it was like being tortured here, not able to support his family and not knowing what his future held. He was mentally struggling. He was exhausted.

Eventually he made the decision to go back to Iran. It wasn't an easy decision. Before we left Iran, his political activities had made him a target. He knew it might not be safe, but he felt like he had no other choice.

When he was back in Iran, I was involved in a protest in Canberra, speaking out for our people back in Iran who are facing discrimination and injustice by the Iranian

Government.

Not long after that, my Dad was taken into custody by Iranian authorities and questioned as to what I was doing protesting. They beat him and left him cut and bruised.

One week later he went missing. He has now been missing for one year, and no one has heard from him.

I can only fear the worst for what has happened to my Dad. I know that if I am forced to go back to Iran. I will face imprisonment or persecution or worse.

All we wanted was to be safe, be together and to rebuild our lives. Now our family is broken. And we aren't alone.

There are at least 7,000 people like me with children and families who want to be reunited with their relatives, and to have some certainty for their future in Australia.



That's why I continue to speak out, to protest, and to call on our political leaders to show compassion and leadership. We need a fair system for everyone. One that doesn't punish people based on how they arrived, but recognises their humanity, their contributions, and their right to build a life in safety.

Australians believe in a fair go - thank you for showing that you believe in that too.

October 2024

100 Days of Refugee-Led Protests for Fairness

Refugees, led by brave protest organisers including Abbas and Rathy, maintained round-the-clock encampments in Melbourne and other cities to demand justice for over 7,000 people failed by the flawed Fast Track system.

Snapshot:

- Hundreds of refugees and allies camped out in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth for 100 continuous days
- ASRC and 75 other legal, faith-based and human rights organisations joined an open letter urging the Government to resolve Fast Track failures and grant permanency
 - Cross-bench MPs and Greens signed a letter to the Government
 - Protest leaders shared powerful personal stories in media and public forums to expose the cruelty of living in limbo

November 2024

Fighting the Brutal Bills

When the Government pushed to pass three draconian migration bills that would have supercharged detention and deportations, the ASRC helped lead the national resistance.

December 2024

Opposing Profiteering in Detention

ASRC publicly condemned the Albanese Government's \$2.3 billion contract with a controversial US private prison company to run Australia's detention centres.

February 2025

Preventing Deportations to Nauru

When three community members were secretly detained and placed on a path to offshore deportation, the ASRC supported legal and sector partners who were working to stop the deportations.

February 2025

Backing Medevac Protections

With urgent medical needs going unmet offshore, the ASRC stood side by side with a small group of supportive politicians in Canberra, calling for the return of Medevac laws to ensure independent, life-saving transfers.

October 2024

You are powering winning campaigns and advocacy work

February 2025

YOU ARE HELPING TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

As one of ASRC's generous supporters, you'll know that freedom means more than release from detention. It's the ability to live with safety, dignity and certainty. Yet for too many refugees in Australia, freedom is either out of reach or continuously under threat.

You're helping to change that with your kind support - but there is still much to do.

In the past year, the Federal Government has passed alarming new laws that supercharge the deportation machinery. These laws give the Immigration Minister even greater powers to forcibly remove people, including those who have lived in our communities for years, without notice, transparency or adequate legal protections. The Government has made it a crime for people not to cooperate with a deportation order, even when it means that a refugee is being deported to danger or harm.

These laws have created widespread fear, uncertainty and retraumatisation. It may shock you to know that we have the same laws here in Australia that make mass deportations possible in the US.

Right now, refugee legal services and advocates across the country are working together to stop the deportation of three people who have been quietly targeted, pulled aside and are planned to be sent to Nauru; a small Island nation that's dangerous for refugees and is the size of Melbourne Airport. And it's you that's making this vital work towards freedom possible. Thank you.

Freedom cannot exist under the threat of deportation. That's why the ASRC continues to fight. In court, in Parliament, and alongside people seeking asylum, for safety, for dignity, and for the right to live free from fear. Thank you for all that you make possible, and for believing in freedom.



"The power-imbalance between people seeking asylum and Government decision makers is severe. Harsh and procedurally unfair processes exacerbate vulnerability and often make it impossible to navigate the system without the assistance of a lawyer. We regularly see first-hand scenarios where we have prevented deportation or detention for clients who would otherwise be unsafe had we not intervened."

- Jimi Muirhead
Senior Solicitor, Human Rights Law Program

February 2025

Polling Shows Public Wants Fairness

ASRC released independent polling showing Australians want a fair and compassionate refugee system.

March 2025

Federal Election Budget Campaign:

Calling on the Government to Fund Fairness. Ahead of the Federal Budget, the ASRC called for policies that restore dignity and opportunity, not deepen exclusion.

May-June 2025

Federal Election Campaign:

Hope, Not Fear. ASRC launched a major refugee-led campaign ahead of the Federal Election, helping to put justice on the national agenda.

THANK YOU FOR STANDING FOR FAIRNESS

Thank you for believing that everyone deserves a fair go, no matter where they come from or how they arrived. We know that you want people seeking asylum to be treated with dignity, to have fair hearings, and a real chance to rebuild their lives.

But for thousands of people who arrived in Australia, fairness has been denied. At the ASRC, we believe fairness means more than process. It means real pathways to permanent protection, family reunion and a future free from fear. It means ending the policies that punish people for seeking safety.

And we know that most Australians agree. ASRC-commissioned polling shows the majority of voters support giving people seeking asylum the right to work, study and access safety while their claims are processed.

Through legal action, policy reform and refugee-led advocacy, we're working every day to turn that shared belief in a fair go into a reality, so that no one is left behind. Only with your continued support will this belief be transformed into reality. Thank you.

Fairness through your support

I'm sure you'll agree, fairness means a process that listens, protects, and delivers justice. Thanks to your support, that's exactly what the ASRC's Human Rights Law Program (HRLP) fights for every day, one person, one family, one case at a time.



You help us to win safety for people who've waited over a decade for justice.

Earlier this year, our legal team continued to lodge urgent requests for people stuck in limbo for over 12 years. A number of those have been successful, including a family of six granted permanent protection recently. Thank you for making advocacy happen in the most timely way, and changing lives.



You help us to overturn unfair decisions.

With your support, we helped a young Nepalese man with complex trauma and an existing protection finding successfully challenge a harsh visa refusal under section 501. In another case, an Iraqi client, suffering from significant cognitive decline, was finally granted a permanent visa after 15 years without one, a significant milestone enabled by sustained advocacy. Thank you.



You help us reunite families and restore hope.

A stateless mother from Myanmar passed her citizenship test this year, ensuring her entire family is now recognised as Australian citizens. Her children had previously been refused, but with expert medical evidence and pro bono counsel, we reversed those decisions. That's thanks to the support you give.



You help us make the system fairer for all.

From training lawyers, to meeting with politicians and challenging unconstitutional detention before the High Court, your support drives systemic change so that fairness isn't the exception, but the norm. Thank you.

July 2025

12 Years of Offshore Cruelty

On the anniversary of offshore detention, the ASRC released new data revealing the human and financial toll.

July 2025

Standing with First Nations Peoples

ASRC joined the Walk for Truth alongside the Yoorrook Justice Commission and Aboriginal community leaders.

July 2025

New Parliament, New Pressure

ASRC returned to Parliament with a refugee-led delegation for the first sitting of the new term.

February 2025

You are powering winning campaigns and advocacy work

July 2025

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE

Safety isn't just about fleeing persecution or danger in your home country, it's about having basic dignity and protection when you arrive here too. But for many women, men and children seeking asylum in Australia, basic rights like work, healthcare and education are still out of reach.

At the ASRC, your support helps people who have been denied the right to work, study or access Medicare, sometimes for over a decade. This is not an oversight, it's a deliberate policy choice designed to wear people down, push them into poverty and force people to give up their claims for protection.

We see the consequences every day - and you'd be devastated to witness them. People skip medication because they can't afford it. Parents going without meals or not taking their sick child to the Doctor for fear of bills they can't afford. Students with dreams of contributing but locked out of education.



“It breaks my heart when my daughter asks me: “Will I be allowed to go to university like my friends? Will we be safe here?” I don’t have an answer for her.” - Rathy

This is what happens when people are denied safety.

You helped Abai get his working rights back

Abai* is a dad from Ethiopia who lives in Melbourne. He looks after his two young children aged 8 and 10 on his own. This is because Abai's wife sadly passed away shortly after he arrived in Australia.

To make things worse, Abai lost his work rights and despite his efforts to do his best for his family, Abai and his sons became homeless after they could no longer afford to pay the rent.

Abai and his children came to the ASRC, who immediately supported them with crisis accommodation. With short-term stability provided, Abai and the caseworker were able to focus their efforts on looking for property in the private rental market, as well as contacting private landlords. Thank you for being part of the support network Abai and his family needed at this time.

Abai's caseworker was able to assist him with advocacy, and Abai received a referral to the ASRC Human Rights

Law Program. They worked together to re-apply for Abai's work rights. After 7 weeks in crisis accommodation, Abai was able to secure a new tenancy. To assist with the process of settling into their new home, Abai was referred to an external agency for furniture and other essentials.

Thanks to your support, the ASRC provided basic needs support to the family to cover utility bills for the first 3 months. After 6 months, Abai received the good news that his work rights application had been approved.

With the support of the ASRC Employment Program, Abai has been able to find suitable employment and is beginning to rebuild his life for himself and his two children.

We believe that everyone deserves access to the essentials that allow a person to live in dignity. Safety must mean more than survival. It means the right to rebuild. Thank you for giving a chance to rebuild to Abai and his sons.

*Name changed to protect identity

YOU HELPED ENSURE OUR VOICES WERE HEARD IN PARLIAMENT

Recently your support helped to lead a delegation to Canberra in the first sitting weeks of the new Parliament to make sure refugee and people seeking asylum are a priority.

We sat side by side with four refugees failed by the flawed Fast Track system. As Rathy shared;

“The Fast Track system has denied thousands of people like me the chance to rebuild our lives with safety and certainty. It has separated families, left communities without answers, and put futures on hold.”

The time in Parliament was action-packed, with a full two day schedule with national media coverage, meeting with over 14 MPs and Senators.

Rathy, Narges, Nooshad and Thanu spoke powerfully to the impact of 13 years in limbo. Reminding politicians of the promises they have made, the reality of family separation, the stress of uncertainty and their hopes for the future. Each shared their own story but made it clear they were there to advocate for their whole community, that all deserve permanency and safety.

“I was forced into a cruel system that has kept me in limbo for over a decade,” Rathy shared.

It was obvious the trip made a difference to everyone present. Politicians thanked us for the delegation, noted how powerful our advocacy was and were touched by human stories.

“We’re asking for something every person deserves. A fair process and permanent pathway to building a safe future here.”

Rathy - Refugee Women Action for Visa Inequality



Rathy, Narges, Nooshad and Thanu about to meet with MPs in Canberra



Rathy and Jana Favero (deputy CEO) meeting with Renee Coffey MP

You're helping build a refugee-led movement for lasting change

Lasting change is only possible when those with lived experience lead the way – and when organisations like ours back them with the tools, platforms and support they need to be heard.

At the ASRC, we've spent years, investing in the leadership of refugees and people seeking asylum. Thanks to you, hundreds of refugee leaders across the country have been trained in advocacy, media, and strategic campaigning.

You've helped to support the ASRC as we've built grassroots actions, long-term relationships with refugee-

led organisations, and helped take powerful voices from the margins to the heart of political decision-making. Just like Rathy who came with us to Parliament a month ago, and whose story you can read in the note enclosed.

It's this groundwork that you make possible that helps power the refugee-led protests, media stories, and direct engagement with MPs that led to the Government's first major reform last term. A pathway to permanency for over 19,000 people on TPV and SHEV visas. Early pressure, combined with support like yours, worked.



Thank you for standing with us

**FOR FREEDOM,
FAIRNESS AND SAFETY**

for all refugees.

*But, thousands are still stuck in limbo -
there is more work to do.*

That's why your help is still desperately needed to support the next wave of peaceful protest, community organising, and political advocacy. It's led by people with lived experience and backed by passionate people like you.

***"We speak with
a moral authority
that cannot be
ignored."***

- Rathy, co-founder of
Refugee Women Action for
Visa Inequality

Together, we can ensure people's stories are heard as a collective demand for justice that our leaders can no longer ignore.

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