

PALM SUNDAY RALLY AND MARCH 2025

April 13, 2pm, Belmore Park (near Central Station)

March to Victoria Park



EDUCATE FOR PEACE!

Permanent Visas for All Refugees

Welcome Refugees – Unity not Racism

Climate Action not AUKUS Nuclear Subs



Contact Sydney Palm Sunday Committee - Ian Rintoul 0417 275 713 or Peter Murphy 0418 312 301.
Donate to Sydney Peace & Justice Coalition BSB 082-024; Account Number 561401082

Speakers: Abishek Selvakumar (Tamil Refugee Association); Rev Rod Benson (NSW Ecumenical Council); Ruth Mitchell (International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons); Sara Haddad (Author); and Natasha Watt (NSW Teachers Federation)

Educate for Peace; Refugees Need Permanent Visas

The second Trump presidency is already throwing away the rule book, reverting to the imperial principle that “might is right”. To answer Trump, we have to educate and organise for peace, for mutual respect, and for cooperative action to overcome the huge challenges we face – global warming, widespread poverty, massive numbers of refugees, and increasing inequality.

After three years of the Labor government, 10,000 asylum seekers, who were rejected under the discredited fast-track system or transferred here from Manus and Nauru, continue to be denied permanent visas. They have been living precariously in Australia for up to 12 years.

Nauru was emptied in June 2023, but new boat arrivals have been sent there and there are now 94 people held at Nauru. Another 39 are still stuck in PNG with no support. The government is now trying to deport refugees to Nauru who were released from detention by the High Court. Since Labor was elected, nine asylum boats have also been turned around at sea, potentially returned to danger.

Labor has not lifted the ban imposed by the Morrison Coalition government on accepting refugees waiting in Indonesia. So 14,000 refugees, including 7,000 Afghans, remain stranded there.

In response to the genocide in Gaza since October 7, 2023, Australia has granted 2,922 Visitor visas to Palestinians up to August 2024, and rejected 7,111. But only 1,300 Palestinians have made it to Australia.

War on China?

The Australian government continues to prepare to join a US war on China – Trump’s priority. The US B-52 bombers are now based at RAAF Tindal in the Northern Territory. Under AUKUS, American and British nuclear submarines will be based at HMAS Stirling near Fremantle, and the government is spending \$368 billion on nuclear submarines. We need that \$368 billion for public housing, fully funded schools, increased staff (and wages) in hospitals and aged care, and accelerated climate action.

We need to keep fighting for humanitarian refugee policies, and for the Australian government to end the alliance with the US war machine and consistently promote peace, not war.

Australia clearly needs to exercise genuine independence when making decisions, so we can foster peace, safe workplaces and quality jobs in cleaner industries.

Authorised by Sydney Palm Sunday Committee
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