

Your display of support board

You will need:

A large sheet of hardboard,
drilled with holes to secure it
to the fence.

Coloured paper and scissors to
make hands prints Don't
forget to put your name on
each print, and the group
name on the board.

Bring it to the Gathering and
make your hands count!



Refugee Figures

In mid 2022 there were 103 million **forcibly displaced** persons throughout the world.

53.2 million were **internally displaced**. (at the end of 2021)

32.5 million were recognised as **refugees**.

4.9 million were **seeking asylum**

41% were children under 18 years.

In the first six months of 2022,

204,500 were able to return to their homes.

43,000 were **resettled** in other countries.
This represents an annual refugee resettlement rate of a quarter of one percent.

Of every thousand recognised refugees, only 2.6 can expect to be resettled in a third country in any given year.

It is a very long, almost non-existent queue!

The Bendigo community has been enriched by refugees from a range of countries who have made their homes among us.

In the past six months RAR Bendigo has welcomed two Hazara refugee families to Bendigo, and helped them to settle under the Government's CRISP scheme. There are plans to welcome a further two families in 2023

Palm Sunday Gathering for Justice for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Organised by Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) and local churches.

For more information, contact

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Palm Sunday

HANDS UP! for Justice for Refugees

**2nd April.
Gather from
12.00 noon.**

**Library Gardens,
Bendigo.**





Hands Up for Refugees!

This year, for the annual raising awareness of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers, we are focusing on hands!

Hands are so useful and expressive, giving us the ability to do stuff and to signal our needs and intentions wordlessly. **Refugees and asylum seekers often have little means to help themselves and their voices are drowned out by the powerful.** So this year, we want to bring these aspect to the forefront of our Palm Sunday Gathering for Justice for them.

Hands up—can signal to life-savers an urgent and life-threatening need for assistance. Unless a rescue takes place, Imminent drowning may ensue. **So we are putting up OUR hands** to signal that refugees seeking asylum and safety need **recognition** of their plight, **voices** to advocate on their behalf, and **swift action**.

Hands up in Bendigo!

Hands up— to signal that a question is pending and an answer required. The hand will stay up until there is an adequate recognition and response. Our national government needs to hear the questions and respond with compassion, justice and immediate effect.

Hands up—to signal agreement, YES!, I'm in! The call for justice needs advocates and voices, questions and action.

Will you put YOUR hand up for refugees this Palm Sunday?

Join in the Gathering at the Library Gardens, Bendigo, Sunday 2nd April for 12.30pm start.

Groups will walk together from various churches, and Dudley House, View St, from 12.00 noon.

Bring a picnic and meet some new friends!

Presentations will include items from local multi-cultural groups, a display of artwork and a short address from Bishop Shane, Catholic Bishop of Sandhurst.



How can you join in?

Schools, churches and community groups are invited to create their own 'Hands Up for Refugees' art work.

Using coloured paper, draw hand shapes with the name of the person on it. Fix them to a large sheet of hardboard, with strategically placed holes drilled to secure it to the fence. Make sure your group name is painted somewhere on it.

You might like to paint over the whole thing with a clear finish to keep it watertight. Bring your board to the Palm Sunday Gathering for display. It will then be added to a display outside both the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals, so the wider community can view them.

Happy Creating!

