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Deported to Danger update: Responsibility to Protect

In 2016, Edmund Rice Centre researchers travelled to Afghanistan as part of our 14 year Deported to Danger project.



Our latest report, *Responsibility to Protect*, challenges Australia's most recent deportations to Afghanistan by providing an overview of the current security situation in the country.

This year, we broadened the focus to include people who have been returned to Afghanistan by other governments, as well as those deported by Australia. Our research has confirmed that Afghanistan remains a violent and unstable country:

- **More civilians have been killed in the last year than in any of the previous 15 years;**
- The number of **internally displaced people due to conflict has increased;**
- **The Taliban movement is growing in confidence** and warlords in various provinces are gathering forces;
- The government and military are unreliable and dependent on US finances and support; and
- The economy is failing and unemployment is rising.

People are losing hope that the situation will improve, creating an overwhelming feeling in Afghanistan that the country is going to get worse before it gets better. The message to the Government is clear: **We must not return people to the dangers they have sought to escape.**

A new approach to Indigenous policy making

Next year marks 25 years since the High Court rejected *terra nullius*. However, Australia's system of Government and policy making processes are still anchored in the mindset of this legal fiction.

That's why we have, in partnership with **Patrick Dodson's Lingiari Foundation** and **Dr Darryl Cronin, Senior Indigenous Fellow at UNSW**, established a program to drive a new policy agenda for Indigenous Australians.

For too long, policy makers have viewed Indigenous peoples through the prism of disadvantage and disorder. However, Indigenous Australians are people of immense resilience and innovation. For millennia, they had sophisticated systems of wealth distribution, trade and land and environmental protection.

The strength and values of Indigenous cultures are the principles upon which to base future policy. For instance, the work that has been done to revive the Gumbaynggir languages in the Nambucca region of NSW has been linked to a reduction in Indigenous recidivism rates.

We want to make politicians and policymakers aware of these success stories to drive a long overdue paradigm shift.

Responding to the call from our Pacific neighbours

Our Pacific neighbours are calling on Australia to take urgent action to combat climate change. Our Pacific Calling Partnership is responding.



2016 KATEP participant Kuata Taumaheke from Tuvalu speaks at a Federal Election candidate's forum hosted by the Edmund Rice Centre and Caritas.

The people of Kiribati and Tuvalu in the Pacific are determined not to be displaced by climate change. That's why our advocacy work is as important as ever before.

We organised the annual **Kiribati-Australia-Tuvalu Exchange Program (KATEP)** with the Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN), the Tuvalu Climate Action Network (TuCAN) and Uniting World in June. KATEP provides young leaders from Kiribati, Tuvalu and Sydney's Pacific Island communities with the opportunity to develop climate advocacy skills and lobby Australian politicians.

Phil Glendenning led a delegation to Kiribati in September to meet with KiriCAN and members of the new Government to get an update on climate change mitigation, adaptation and financing.

Pacific Outreach Officer **Maria Tiimon** launched Caritas' **State of the Environment Report** in October. On 9 November, **Maria will join 2016 Sydney Peace Prize recipient Naomi Klein** in a panel discussion about the climate crisis. Book your tickets for this event at: www.cityrecitalhall.com/events/naomi-klein.

Resources for Schools

Are you a teacher looking for ways to incorporate social justice, human rights and eco-justice in the classroom? We can help.

Our Asylum Seekers and Refugees Education Resource provides activities which are practical, engaging and focused on increasing awareness about human rights and advocacy.

The resource offers 35 cross-curricular activities, adaptable to all year levels in secondary and primary schools. A number of community groups have also incorporated the activities in their work.

Download the resource at: www.erc.org.au/resources_for_schools.

We also publish *Just Comments* which provide commentary on social justice, human rights and eco-justice issues around the world. **You can download the articles at:** www.erc.org.au/just_comment.

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- Making a one-off donation
- Making a regular donation
- Taking part in a workplace giving program
- Leaving a gift to the Centre in your will
- Corporate support for one of our programs
- Holding a fundraising appeal in support of ERC

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