

# People Seeking Asylum and Refugee (PSAR) Inclusion Tool



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The Salvation Army is committed to welcoming, supporting and advocating for refugees and people seeking asylum ('asylum seekers'). This is expressed in The Salvation Army's International Positional Statement on Refugees and Asylum Seekers<sup>1</sup> and in a guideline from the Australia Territory's Moral and Social Issues Council.<sup>2</sup> As a movement and as Christians, we are called to be proactive in walking alongside those from refugee backgrounds.

The PSAR Inclusion Tool has been developed to help individuals and Mission Expressions respond in practical ways. It summarises The Salvation Army's position regarding issues related to refugees and people seeking asylum. It also provides actions that all Salvationists can take. For more information and support, please contact the Intercultural and Disability Inclusion (IDI) Team:

[intercultural@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:intercultural@salvationarmy.org.au)

### Summary of [The Salvation Army International Positional Statement on Refugees and Asylum Seekers](#):

1. Inspired by the love of God for all humanity, The Salvation Army calls Salvationists to respond to the needs of asylum seekers and refugees. Acceptance, assistance, and advocacy should be offered without discrimination.
2. Since its founding, The Salvation Army has sought to alleviate human suffering without discrimination. The Salvation Army works internationally to meet the needs of displaced persons by providing food, shelter and counselling, and attending to many other basic needs. The Salvation Army will intentionally organise and implement appropriate responses to refugees and asylum seekers.
3. The Salvation Army advocates for the development of proactive and compassionate policies in relation to all asylum seekers and refugees. It is imperative that domestic legislation ensures humane standards of treatment and conditions for asylum seekers and refugees in line with relevant international conventions.
4. The Salvation Army is concerned about delays in assessing the claims of asylum seekers for refugee protection. The claims of asylum seekers should be processed expeditiously; access to legal assistance, health care, education and recreational facilities should be available, the integrity of family units maintained, and special protection and schooling provided for children.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/masic/positional-statements/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/masic/guidelines-for-salvationists/asylum-seekers-and-refugees/>

5. The Salvation Army opposes the detention of people seeking asylum and calls for the use of alternatives wherever possible. Where detention is unavoidable, asylum seekers should not be detained for any longer than the shortest required period necessary to carry out identity, health and security checks.

6. The Salvation Army will engage asylum seekers and refugees without judgement, oppose their stigmatisation and encourage its people, as well as members of society at large, to welcome them.

7. The Salvation Army will take an active role in meeting with members of government and international organisations as a form of peaceful advocacy for refugees. It will seek to influence government to ensure the relevant international conventions are upheld. It will proactively advocate for the development of legislation that ensures that those who seek asylum are met with compassion and given a high level of human security.

8. The Salvation Army will take an active role in the development of proactive, compassionate and human rights-focused policy and strategy that advocates for asylum seekers and refugees.

9. The Salvation Army aims to provide safe environments for those seeking asylum. Wherever possible, The Salvation Army will meet their immediate physical, emotional and spiritual needs. It will work with refugees to integrate them into society and its own fellowship.

### **Suggestions for practical actions in Australia**

Consider taking some of the following actions as an individual or community. For information or support with any of these actions, contact the IDI Team.

- Write to your local member of parliament. Express your concerns about issues experienced by people seeking asylum and/or refugees.
- The Salvation Army's Policy, Research and Social Justice team has developed a great tool to help you write to your Members of Parliament. Please visit their Toolkit <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/get-involved/advocacy/talking-to-your-local-member/>
- Join a Palm Sunday Justice For Refugees Rally to show support to people seeking asylum and/or refugees experiencing injustice. Visit [www.aran.net.au/](http://www.aran.net.au/) or contact the IDI Team for more information.

- Welcome and show hospitality to new arrivals in your community.
  - You can find engagement ideas and resources on the mySalvos Toolkit '[People Seeking Asylum and Refugee Inclusion](#)'.<sup>3</sup>
- Listen to the lived experience of others. Invite people with lived experience in your corps/mission expression to share their story or watch [a refugee story video](#) from Salvos Studios to learn more about refugee experiences.
- Hold a People Seeking Asylum and Refugee Inclusion workshop at your corps/mission expression to learn practical skills in welcoming and supporting those from refugee backgrounds. Contact the IDI Team to request a workshop.
- Start a conversational English class to help new arrivals learn English in a socially inclusive and supportive environment.
  - A starter kit for English Conversation classes specific to your state/territory can be downloaded from the mySalvos Toolkit '[Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities](#)'.<sup>4</sup>
- Read or view the children's book, *Emmaline Rabbit*. This book is intended to help children understand the refugee experience. Purchase from Salvationist Supplies, search 'Emmaline Rabbit' at [Salvosstudios.com](#) or read online<sup>5</sup>.
- Create welcoming spaces and events that actively include people seeking asylum and refugees.
- If it's appropriate, as a community you could sponsor refugee families overseas to settle in your community.
- When you cross paths with people seeking asylum and refugees, go out of your way to provide opportunities, where possible, for employment, training and social interaction.
- Speak up when you hear or see racism or bias against people seeking asylum and refugees.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://my.salvos.org.au/toolkit/resource/people-seeking-asylum-and-refugee-inclusion-resources/2259/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://my.salvos.org.au/toolkit/resource/culturally--linguistically-diverse-communities/2652/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/sites/default/files/uploads/\\_archive/file/Lesson%208%20Extra%20resource%20Emmaline%20Rabbit.pdf](https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/sites/default/files/uploads/_archive/file/Lesson%208%20Extra%20resource%20Emmaline%20Rabbit.pdf)