Nauru Asylum Seekers' Hunger Strike - Statement of Concern and Support - to the Prime Minister

Dear Prime Minister - we are deeply concerned at the policy decisions that have led to the impasse between the 45 Hunger Strikers in the Nauru Immigration Detention Centre and the Australian Government.

The Hunger Strikers have entered the fourth week of their protest, and it is clear their health and strength is rapidly fading. News about their condition is fragmentary, because access to the island and camp has been severely restricted by the Governments of Nauru and Australia. This lack of information and almost non-existent visitor access is itself a matter for concern in a democratic country.

We appeal to the Hunger Strikers to end their protest before one of them dies or before they suffer irreparable damage to their bodies and faculties. We are appalled that this is the only means remaining to draw attention to the plight of them and their families. Further, we acknowledge that their situation is made more desperate by there being no resolution of their status in sight. However, we respect their right to continue the protest if this is their decision.

We appeal to the Australian Government, in particular the Prime Minister, to immediately dispatch an independent medical support team to assess the condition of the Hunger Strikers and provide necessary medical care. The facilities available at the Nauru Hospital and from IOM (who operate the camp) are reported to be inadequate to deal with the current crisis, in terms of the number of cases and the specialist knowledge and skills required. Australia has a clear duty of care for the Hunger Strikers, and the Prime Minister has the authority and responsibility to ensure that it is fully met.

We call on the Prime Minister to instruct the responsible Minister to make every effort to facilitate the asylum seekers on Nauru having their cases promptly reviewed. This review should take into account the changed circumstances in the country of origin. The review should be conducted with a view to finding a durable solution for all 284 asylum seekers and for them to be either granted refugee or humanitarian status and bought to the Australian mainland, or for them to be taken in by another country sympathetic to their plight. The Australian Government's 'Pacific Solution' agreement with Nauru must be terminated.

Name	Address (please write clearly)	Signature	Phone number/email

Return completed Statements to The Prime Minister John Howard, GPO Box 59, Sydney NSW 2001 - with a photocopy to Hunger strikers, 16 Dilkera Street, Balmoral, QLD 4171