

Mary Ward Justice Forum 2018

Shouting Across the Divide In Pursuit of a More Just Australia

For years Australian society has been divided by the debate over asylum seekers and it has worsened over time. Twenty-five years ago, the Catholic Social Justice Statement on immigration noted: "underneath the surface of the Australian debate there are often unresolved fears of newcomers, other 'races', pluralism, conflict and change."

The question of how we should respond to strangers is the same as the one posed by the lawyer when he asked Jesus: "Who is my neighbour?"

Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement
2015-2016

Please join the discussion as we hear from expert panellists

WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2018

7:00PM - 9:00PM (REFRESHMENTS SERVED FROM 6:30PM)

CURRAN THEATRE, LORETO NORMANHURST
91-93 PENNANT HILLS ROAD, NORMANHURST

RSVP: MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2018

There is no cost to attend this event, however, please register your attendance for catering purposes at www.trybooking.com/WNJD

Enquiries: Mrs Libby Parker, Director of Mission: mission@loretohn.nsw.edu.au

Our panellists



Julian Burnside AO QC

Julian is well known for his work as a barrister in Australia, as well as a human rights and refugee advocate and author. He is a former President of Liberty Victoria and has acted pro bono in many human rights cases, in particular concerning the treatment of refugees. Julian is an accomplished author having written several publications on law and human rights including *Watching Brief*, and *From Nothing to Zero*, a compilation of letters written by asylum seekers held in Australia's detention camps. In 2004 Julian was awarded the Human Rights Law Award and elected as an Australian Living Treasure. In 2009, he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia and in 2014 he was awarded the Sydney Peace Prize.



Dr Sara Townend

Sara is a GP in Sydney. She was catapulted into advocacy after a letter she wrote was signed by 2300 doctors and helped in the campaign to transfer a refugee from Nauru to Australia for medical care. She has recently joined Doctors for Justice to promote excellence in health care for all groups, without regard for race, religion, age, gender or ability. Sara's work has always had a focus on palliative care in adults and children, until recently, when she was drawn suddenly into fighting injustice in health care for refugees in detention on Nauru and Manus Island, which she now balances with her everyday work.



Professor Dr David Isaacs

David runs a clinic for refugees in Sydney's western suburbs and is a clinical professor at the University of Sydney and a paediatrician at Sydney's Westmead Hospital. Invited by the government to work in the offshore detention centre in Nauru in December 2014, David then published an article in the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, an international academic publication, explaining why indefinite detention amounted to torture and posing the question: "Are healthcare professionals working in Australia's immigration detention centres condoning torture?"



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