

Advent, a time to reflect and renew our spirit for and with others. A time when refugees and people seeking asylum continue experiencing cruelty and hardship.

Easter is a period of reflection and contemplation. It is also an opportunity to become more active, open our hearts and show solidarity. With the Australian government currently implementing some of the world's harshest asylum policies, including drastic cuts to basic support for people seeking asylum, the urgency to increase support is greater.

That is why JRS Australia calls on our friends and supporters to affirm the dignity of our sisters and brothers who are forcibly displaced; we ask you to get involved and take a stand for people seeking asylum. No matter how small or big, your contribution will make a positive difference to the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum in our community, particularly those who are in vulnerable situations, such as Nabeela* and her daughter Noor.



Image courtesy of JRS International

Both mother and child are in limbo...

Nabeela was sent to Nauru in 2013, after she arrived by boat in July 2013. She did not know where Nauru was or why she was being sent there.

Recently she shared her experience living in the unbearable heat and fighting malaria-carrying mosquitoes; the security guards standing just beyond the curtains, policing two-minute showers to the second; the handful of filthy toilets for hundreds of people. She spoke of friends retreating into the stuffy, suffocating, darkness of their tents; of children cutting themselves; and of the fictitious panacea of painkillers.

Despite being found to be a refugee by Australian and Nauruan authorities, she felt utterly hopeless. She was a skilled professional who could not find work on the island.

Last year she was finally evacuated from the island after Noor, her 2-year old daughter's health deteriorated to the point of partial paralysis, due to the inability of local health providers to treat a routine infection. Today Noor is being nursed back to health. But Nabeela continues to live in limbo. Both mother and child are in community detention; Nabeela without the right to work nor to study. Without clarity over their future. And with very little money to survive.

Nabeela's story is one of many refugees and people seeking asylum forced to make brave decisions as they flee violence, war, persecution and abuse whilst seeking a safe home. Soon after, they face a hostile environment in our country, isolation and lack of support.

**Names changed to protect their identity*

What we do with your generous support.

Your generous contribution to JRS's mission enables us to accompany and serve those who are experiencing social exclusion, isolation and live in difficult circumstances, particularly those who are in the process of obtaining their protection visa whilst living with no entitlements and in hunger and destitution as a result of recent cuts in basic support for people seeking asylum.

JRS's community centre is a place where people like Nabeela can feel safe, heard, understood and included; a place for the 2-year old Noor to play and build a positive life in Australia.

As a result of the cuts to basic support services for people seeking asylum, our team of front-line workers are seeing far more women, men and children coming through our doors, who are isolated, hungry and need life-saving support. In the last few months, demand for our foodbank has increased by 60%. JRS is committed to continue serving those most in need.

How can you make a difference? An opportunity to open our hearts.

We invite you to make this Lent a time to support people like Nabeela and her daughter Noor, a time of giving to others. With your gift we will ensure that people like Nabeela and Noor – and others facing similar circumstances – have adequate support, casework, basic food and recreational activities along with the psycho-social support they need to heal and live a life with dignity.

"We cannot but be moved by the many refugees seeking minimally dignified living conditions, who not only fail to find hospitality, but often, tragically, perish in moving from place to place." *Pope Francis.*



Together we can use this advent season as an opportunity to make a positive difference to people's lives. Let's act and contribute to a better future for refugees and people seeking asylum who are suffering in our communities.

On behalf of JRS Australia team and the people we serve, we thank you for joining in our mission.

Carolina Gottardo
Director, JRS Australia

P.S. Your generous gift is 100% tax deductible.

The difference your generosity can make

\$70 for 2 hours of essential casework and advocacy support

\$150 is the fortnightly allowance for the food, travel, and medical needs of asylum seekers living in the JRS Blaiket Shelter, which offers emergency accommodation.

\$280 fortnightly allowance for food, travel, and medical needs of asylum seekers.

\$600 to help a family seeking asylum meet their basic living expenses including rent, food, travel and medical needs.

\$4,200 to fund the hire of a caseworker for one month to offer professional support to vulnerable women, men and children, helping them build resilience.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Please act now.

Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Email _____

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Please return to:

Jesuit Refugee Service
PO Box 522, Kings Cross NSW 1340

I wish to make a donation as follows:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

Donate online (single or recurrent donation):

www.jrs.org.au/donate-now/

OR I enclose a cheque/money order payable to Jesuit Refugee Service for \$ _____

OR please debit my credit card the amount of \$ _____

Visa Mastercard

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Expiry date ____/____

Cardholder's name _____

Signature _____ LINK0319