**From:** Jane Salmon
**Date:** 16 November 2015 at 12:15:01 PM AEDT
**To:** "Theophanous, Harry (B. Shorten, MP)" <Harry.Theophanous@aph.gov.au>, "bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au" <bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au>, Bill Shorten <billshortenmp@gmail.com>, shawn.lambert@aph.gov.au, Tanya Plibersek <tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au>, "anthony.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au" <anthony.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au>, George.Wright@cbr.alp.org.au, "senator.wong@aph.gov.au" <senator.wong@aph.gov.au>, "Cameron Doug (Senator)" <senator.cameron@aph.gov.au>, jenny.macklin.mp@aph.gov.au, anna.bourke.mp@aph.gov.au, "senator.dastyari@aph.gov.au" <senator.dastyari@aph.gov.au>, Melissa Parke <melissa.parke.mp@aph.gov.au>
**Cc:** Ian Rintoul <rintoulian10@gmail.com>, Gillian Triggs <gillian.triggs@humanrights.gov.au>, George Newhouse <gnewhouse@shine.com.au>, Jenny Haines <jennhain@bigpond.com>, "jb@julianburnside.com.au" <jb@julianburnside.com.au>, Julian Burnside <burnside@vicbar.com.au>
**Subject:** **Re: Response to your email to the Leader of the Opposition**

Thanks. I truly appreciate the sincerity of this response and the detail provided.

However, a couple of further questions arise from this correspondence.

Duration of offshore detention and the ethics of using maritime arrivals as hostages is one factor.

The standard of care in offshore facilities is another.

Radicalisation of those we abuse in long term detention is a serious risk. The average maritime arrival is 22, poor, enterprising, somewhat educated and already traumatised. To add three years of anger at arbitrary incarceration to this load does not make sense. I have seen gentle and capable hope-filled people decline into hatred. At some point, Australian voters will pay a great price for this.

Private for profit operators seem incompetent and poor value for money.

There are outstanding transparency and human rights issues.

The hypocrisy of focussing on maritime arrivals when the majority of overstayers arrive by air is another concern.

The tacit regional security agenda is another.

The volatility of the Middle East is exacerbated by clumsy US Foreign Policy.

As a graduate of Sydney University in International Relations, I am more afraid of nuclear conflagrations in the Middle East than of domestic terror or unmanaged maritime population flow. As with climate change, all nations rise or fall on the same global tide.

Sent by: Jane Salmon

NSW 2071

On 16 Nov 2015, at 11:44 AM, Theophanous, Harry (B. Shorten, MP) <Harry.Theophanous@aph.gov.au> wrote:

Good morning,

Please see attached response to your email to Bill Shorten.

Kind regards

**Harry Theophanous**

Correspondence, Research and Administration Assistant

Office of the Hon Bill Shorten MP

Leader of the Opposition

Phone: (02) 6277 4022

 [www.billshorten.com.au](http://www.billshorten.com.au/)

 Office of the Leader of the Opposition

 PO Box 6022 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 • Tel:(02) 6277 4022 • Fax:(02) 6277 8592

Jane Salmon

Killara NSW 2071

Dear Jane

Thank you for your email to Opposition Leader Bill Shorten regarding Labor’s approach to asylum seekers. Mr Shorten appreciates you taking the time to write and I have been asked to respond.

The contribution that migration has made to Australia needs to be properly acknowledged. We are a nation built on migration. The fabric of Australian society is richer from the experience of migration, including the contributions of those Australians who came here as refugees or asylum seekers.

The issue of those seeking asylum in Australia is very complex. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of displaced people fleeing from war, conflict or persecution and looking for a better future in other countries is the highest since World War II. By the close of 2014 an estimated 59.5 million individuals were forcibly displaced around the globe as a result of persecution, conflict, violence and human rights violations. This is 8.3 million persons more than the previous year and the highest recorded annual increase in a single year.

Labor believes that Australia can do more to address this global humanitarian crisis. Labor believes in a compassionate approach to asylum seekers which enables refugees to progress their claims safely and securely.

At the recent Labor Party National Conference, Opposition Leader, Bill Shorten and Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Richard Marles, unveiled Labor’s immigration policy which is centred on a humane and compassionate approach to asylum seekers, while maintaining appropriate deterrents to prevent people smugglers preying on some of the world’s most vulnerable people.

This policy is focussed on Australia playing a greater role in the world with respect to asylum seekers and ensuring that we play our part in reducing the sum of global human misery.

A Shorten Labor Government will provide significantly increased annual funding to the UNHCR for its global work program and its work in South East Asia and the Pacific. At a time when the global humanitarian need is greater than ever, Labor will provide $450 million over three years to support the important work of the UNHCR. This funding commitment would place Australia in the top five global contributors to the UNHCR and is something of which all Australians can rightly be proud.

Labor also plans to take a leadership role within South East Asia and the Pacific to build a regional humanitarian framework to improve the situation of asylum seekers.

A Labor Government would also increase Australia’s annual humanitarian intake to 27,000 by 2025. This is almost double the current intake under the Abbott Government of 13,750. As part of our commitment to demonstrating leadership in our region, a portion of the program will be dedicated to resettling refugees from the region.

In 2013, the former Labor Government implemented the Regional Resettlement Arrangement which severely restricted the ability of people smugglers in Indonesia to “sell” the journey to Australia. A future Labor Government will stand firm on maintaining a policy of offshore processing to keep this perilous boat journey shut.

However, this does not mean that Labor believes these facilities should be run as punitive holding cells. The processing facilities on Manus Island and Nauru must be humane and offer people seeking safety exactly that.

Labor will also empower the Commonwealth Ombudsman to provide independent oversight of Australia’s onshore detention network and will continue to ensure that those working in the immigration system enjoy the benefit of whistleblower protections to speak out about any maladministration and corruption.

In the almost two years since the last federal election, it has become abundantly clear that the combination of offshore processing and regional resettlement, together with the policy of turning back boats, has stopped the flow of vessels arriving on our shores. None of these strategies could have succeeded in isolation but together they have ended a human tragedy. Provided it can be done so safely, a future Labor Government will retain the option of turning boats around. This is a difficult decision but one which will save hundreds, ultimately thousands, of lives.

I understand this is an option that can be hard for some people to accept. But what characterised this journey were people smugglers who made huge profits with the result that 1200 people drowned on our border. A future Labor Government cannot and will not allow this human tragedy to unfold ever again.

Labor is absolutely committed to protecting the interests of children within the immigration detention system and will provide a strong independent voice within government to advocate for the interests of children seeking asylum. A Labor Government will appoint an advocate, independent of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, backed by the resources and statutory powers necessary to pursue the best interests of those children, including the power to bring court proceedings on a child’s behalf.

This will not reduce the Minister’s obligations in relation to unaccompanied non-citizen children or the ability of other interested parties to take court action against the Minister. The independent children’s advocate will have access to all unaccompanied minors in detention and in the community to ensure their rights and interests are protected. In government Labor will legislate to impose mandatory reporting of child abuse in all offshore and onshore immigration detention facilities.

Finally, Labor will restore fast and fair processing of asylum claims for those people already living in Australia. This will see us reinstate references to the UN Refugees Convention in the *Migration Act* to reverse the Abbott Government’s retrograde efforts to undermine international law. We will reinstate access to the Refugee Review Tribunal and abolish the Independent Assessment Authority established by the Abbott Government.

A Labor Government would be focussed on removing people from detention as soon as possible, in particular children and their families.

We will abolish Temporary Protection Visas, which keep people in a permanent state of limbo, and place those found to be genuine refugees on permanent protection visas. Under the former Labor Government there was a statutory requirement for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to report on how many claims were processed within 90 days of a completed application being received. The Abbott Government abolished this. Labor in Government will reintroduce the ‘90 day rule’ into the Migration Act.

This package will provide for Australia to play the largest role it ever has in tackling the refugee crisis facing the world. At the same time it will prevent people dying at sea.

In sum, this policy is all about opening Australia’s door wider, bringing more refugees here, but doing so safely.

For more information on Labor’s asylum seeker approach please visit www.alp.org.au/asylumseekers

Yours sincerely

Shawn Lambert

Adviser

Office of the Leader of the Opposition

16 November 2015

From: Jane Salmon

Sent: Monday, 10 August 2015 3:17 PM

To: Plibersek, Tanya (MP); Bill Shorten; Shorten, Bill (MP)

Cc: anthony.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au; Burke, Tony (MP); Dastyari, Sam (Senator)

Subject: Asylum Seekers

 Dear Bill,

Please please be a statesman and national leader on Asylum Seeker policy.

The LNP/ Border Force "no crack of light" policy for boat arrivals is not working. Boats keep coming. Turnbacks are cruel, dangerous.

Please discuss relocation of boat arrivals detained on Manus & Nauru to Canada. The mis-management of offshore detention centres is a scandal (drunken rapist Aussie guards, violent locals, PNG & Nauru nationalism, not to mention the racism, child abuse, poor medical care).

 You will get praise from many, many quarters of you can resolve this for Australia. Whole electorates of Western Sydney will appreciate an improved debate.

 We can't go around echoing the Nazis' "Final Solution" to Judaism in the eerily named "pacific Solution". It's not decent.

 We all know how unhealthy long term institutional detention can be. As a mother of children with additional needs, I find this cold cruelty a terrifying precedent.

 Thank you for reading.

 I know you can do this.

Refs:

Phil Glendinning, Edmund Rice Centre.

Robert Manne, The Monthly.

SBS, Go Back to Where You Come From.

Ian Rintoul.

Reports by Liam Cochrane, ABC PNG correspondent.

Julian Burnside.

Gillian Triggs.

 Sent by:

Jane Salmon

NSW 2071