



## AUSTRALIANS WELCOME REFUGEES, SAYS #IAMWITHYOU

*From Friends of Refugees Press Office  
May 20, 2016.*

**Melbourne, Friday** --Friends of Refugees has launched a bold, new campaign to show that the majority of Australians are a generous, welcoming people when it comes to asylum-seekers and refugees.

#IAMWITHYOU, which is being launched to coincide with World Refugee Day on June 20, aims to recruit the many thousands of Australians who are willing to say “no” to government policy-makers intent on dividing society over this issue in order to win elections. (see below to sign up).

“The latest attack upon asylum-seekers and refugees by the Immigration Minister explains why we need to band together and show him Australians do not condone this callous attitude to vulnerable people, “ said a spokesperson for Melbourne-based Friends Of Refugees, which runs programs for refugees as well as providing material aid for newly-arrived asylum-seekers and refugees.

“Australia is a tolerant, humane country that has welcomed refugees in their thousands – and cherished their massive contribution to society – since the second world war.

“Yet we are constantly hearing otherwise from our policy-makers. They sow fear and division, especially at election time, in the belief it will win votes.

“#IAMWITHYOU is our answer to those who would paint us as intolerant and inhumane and further degrade our international reputation.

“It’s our way of letting the world know we welcome asylum-seekers and refugees to what our national anthem describes as ‘our land of boundless plains’ for those ‘who’ve come across the sea’.”

HOW TO SIGN UP : Please visit [www.iamwithyou.org.au](http://www.iamwithyou.org.au) to add your voice to the rising tide of people asking for better treatment of people seeking asylum.

**For further information contact Friends of Refugees, Sri Samy-0415 566 348.**