



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES  
IN NEW SOUTH WALES  
CLRI (NSW)**

ABN: 52 476 362 010  
Member of Catholic Church Religious Group

Mr P Georgiou MP  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Georgiou

I am writing on behalf of the Social Justice Committee of the Conference of Leaders of Catholic Religious Institutes working in NSW, which represents about 4000 religious men and women, their co-workers and associates.

On behalf of our members I would like to offer to you our support, for the recent decision you took in opposing Australia's abandonment of our responsibilities as international citizen, who acts with justice and compassion towards vulnerable people who come to our country seeking assistance.

As you stated in your speech in the House on May 11<sup>th</sup>, *the proposed policy would be cruel and wrong, a most profoundly disturbing piece of legislation. We should treat asylum seekers with greater compassion.* These sentiments have a strong echo in the minds and hearts of many Australian citizens. Thank you for expressing their concerns so powerfully. It has been pleasing to note that the sort of concerns you expressed were taken up and reported in the press around the world, in papers as diverse as the New York Times and the Northern Ghanaian Times (noted in an email from a friend living in Ghana).

On behalf of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, thank you for confirming that seeking justice, and showing compassion for the disadvantaged, is not a form of weakness.

Yours faithfully

Br P S Cram  
20<sup>th</sup> August 2006

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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