

[Insert the date here]

Malcolm Turnbull MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Turnbull [or insert the name of your local Liberal Party member here],

I write to you concerning your response to the recent increase in refugee boats attempting to enter Australian waters. As a signatory to the Refugee Convention, Australia is both legally and morally bound to process the claims of asylum seekers entering our territory, and to give them protection if and when they are found to be legitimate refugees. I have been very disappointed to hear the comments [you/members of your party] have made in the media recently, which reflect a negative attitude towards those who flee their countries seeking shelter from persecution and war.

Comments that brand current immigration and refugee policy as being “soft” or as having “failed” only encourage people to think that refugees have no right to travel to Australia and should be kept away at all costs. Is this really the message that your party wants to send to the Australian people? Given that the Liberal Party has supported several changes in legislation, such as the end of the Pacific Solution and Temporary Protection Visas, which signal a more compassionate view of asylum seekers, I would think not. To comment negatively upon legislation and policy that you and your party members helped to pass seems both illogical and misleading.

I long for a future where Australia truly answers the call of its international obligations to those who seek refuge. I believe that making negative comments in the media, even if they are not supported by negative actions in Parliament, will have a detrimental effect on our hopes of seeing this future realised. I encourage you to bravely support your actions with words, and to join with the current Government in attempting to reverse the fearful attitudes towards refugees that were disseminated during the previous Government.

Yours sincerely,

[Insert your name here and, if you wish, your address.]