

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7QB2K8

Organisation: United Nations Youth Association

Submission Text:

Each year the United Nations Youth Association (UNYA) of Queensland holds a Summit for high school students. One of the activities of this Summit is a Youth Declaration, where students come together to discuss issues that are important to them. The outcome of these discussions is a list of statements that are designed to represent the opinion of the Summit delegates. This is an opportunity for young people's views to be heard by our leaders. One topic at this year's Summit was Human Rights, with the outcome of discussion as follows.

The United Nations Youth Association Summit 2009,

1. Believes that Human rights should hold more prominence in our society
2. Believes that a Bill of Rights, though good in theory would, in practice, not accurately serve its purpose in an ever changing Australian society
3. Believes that education is the best method to prevent discrimination of all types
4. Believes that a national human rights education program should be implemented in our society via primary, secondary and tertiary syllabuses as well as within the workplace
5. Wishes to highlight Human Trafficking as an important human rights issue that is especially relevant in Australia as we are a popular destination country
7. Asks the Australian Government to provide support networks for victims of human trafficking
8. Believes that refugees should not be detained for over 18 months, and preferably would be released within 9 months
9. Requests the government to improve the living conditions of refugees whilst in Australian detention
10. Believes that, as an affluent country, Australia should take the responsibility to accept more refugees and provide stronger support systems for integrating them into society
11. Condemns the use of the Pacific Solution and suggests an alternative method which better protects the human rights of refugees
12. Believes that all Australians, along with the Australian government, should encourage retailers to promote fairtrade goods
13. Insists that Australia should increase the availability of social services and housing for the homeless population in our country
14. Believes that the issue of homeless youth in our communities is increasing and consequently, initiatives are needed to integrate them back into society where they can create opportunities for themselves via volunteer education, training, crisis accommodation and facilities where basic needs are supplied
15. Supports and encourages the recent government stimulus package which includes specific initiatives to increase community housing

