

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7P22S8

Organisation: Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

Submission Text:

There are many aspects of the approach to asylum seekers in this country that I believe need to be addressed. One aspect of human rights abuse is that some asylum seekers are still detained while their application for protection is assessed. Taking away a person's freedom for an unspecified time because they have sought asylum is wrong.

I have visited many people who have been detained and I do not know any whose mental health has not been affected to a greater or lesser extent. Since most of those detained are, by very definition, people who have been traumatised in some way prior to their detention, it seems cruel to cause further suffering. Those who are waiting in the community for their application to be processed do not 'disappear' - so if that is the reason for detaining some particular people, what is the rationale? If they are simply being punished for their mode of application, again what is the rationale?