2016
JUST ART
ASYLUM SEEKERS – STORIES OF HUMANITY

ADVOCACY THROUGH ART
Calling for a more just and compassionate response to people seeking asylum on Australian shores
ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY FOREWORD

The St Vincent de Paul Society is proud to celebrate our inaugural Just Art Competition.

Just Art aims to make advocacy accessible to all people, of all ages, through the artistic representation of contemporary social justice issues.

The 2016 focus, Asylum Seekers: Stories of Humanity, is a contemporary and relevant topic that is challenging the Australian conscience. It came in the context of the arrival of Syrian refugees in Australia, international discussion about Australia’s treatment of people seeking asylum and off-shore detention, a federal election, and a new St Vincent de Paul Society Asylum Seeker Policy.

We would like to thank all our entrants and their supporters for being part of a values based advocacy discussion, centred on the values of compassion, respect, integrity and courage. The advocacy pieces submitted this year include challenging and inspiring motifs which are woven through the stories of people seeking asylum. Our artists’ ‘stories of humanity’ celebrate strength of character, personal endurance and courage. They reflect compassion and love, and inspire hope. They value human dignity in all its forms. They cry out for peace, and they demand justice.

This project is not possible without the help and support of many volunteers. We would also like to thank all our judges, photographers, focus groups, administration assistants, and everyone who has volunteered their time and talent to help.

Thank you to all of you who have been part of and continue to be part of this important conversation and to every entrant who responded to the call for creative advocacy in seeking a more just and compassionate response to people seeking asylum on Australian shores.

Yours in advocacy,

The Youth & Education Development Team
St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria
As part of the Just Art 2016 advocacy, over 1500 Victorians have written messages of hope and put their hand up to call for a more just and compassionate response to people seeking asylum on Australian shores. These decorated hands form part of this year’s exhibition, and will also be sent as messages of hope and support to those in detention.
STATE PRESIDENT’S FOREWORD

Many of us have been disturbed by what has happened, in the public eye and beyond critical gaze, in recent years regarding asylum seekers and refugees.

These individuals are often simplified in society’s discourse as ‘boat people’ – a representation of their desperate, shared journey to find safety in other countries.

But when they arrive, if they arrive, asylum seekers and refugees often face more challenges and heartbreak.

We know that millions of displaced people live desperate lives in refugee camps, some staying for over a decade.

Finding viable solutions is proving beyond the ideas, resources, finances and consciences of international bodies, national governments, NGOs and us, compassionate and caring people.

The Just Art initiative of the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria is a new platform for advocacy, education and conversation in the face of the enormous ethical conundrum posed by asylum seekers and refugees.

It aims to increase the understanding of each of us, from primary students to adults, to help identify ways by which we can better advocate for these victims in an unjust world.

I commend each and every entrant for the effort, creativity and conscience which has influenced the creation of your entry, whether as individuals, as a school class, or in a team with friends.

I trust that everyone who views this exhibition is moved to respond individually, or as part of advocacy by a group such as the St Vincent de Paul Society.

With thanks,

Michael Liddy
State President
St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria

“I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME”
MATTHEW 25:35
**THE CRYING DOVE**

Major Award Winner - Ozanam Award  
Visual Arts (Secondary School Age)

Lucia Roohizadegan  
McKinnon Secondary College

Lucia is a dedicated student with a strong passion for the arts and writing. Fusion of visual and literary expression takes her to a world where everything and anything is possible and where good always wins over evil.

Lucia’s artwork of the Crying Dove delivers the message of asylum seekers through symbolism. The dove conveys the idea of hope, freedom and spiritual enlightenment as opposed to the bars with the innocent children trapped behind them. A beautiful golden wattle in the beak of the dove is a symbol of inspiration drawing the conclusion that the freedom and safety will be found “down under”. Colours are complimentary to the way the picture makes us feel from sadness and melancholy towards more positive emotions.

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**THEN I CAME BY BOAT**

Major Award Winner - Vincentian Award  
Media (Open Age)

Marleena Forward

Marleena Forward is an award winning filmmaker, cinematographer and photographer based in Melbourne. She has shot over a dozen short documentaries and her two self-directed shorts have won awards from the Human Rights Arts and Film Festival and the Golden Lens Awards (China).

Marleena says: “I was a teenager when the notorious ‘children overboard’ affair took place in 2001. I watched in disgust as the Australian public rushed to accuse asylum seekers of harming their own children. Since then, I have remained angry at the continued politicisation of the issue of asylum seekers who arrive by boat - angry, frustrated and saddened that rather than lead the country towards a more humane approach to this issue, Australia politicians prefer to fuel public misconceptions about asylum seekers for political gain. When Tri Nguyen walked from Melbourne to Canberra in 2014, his extraordinary story as well as his positive message of thanks and gentle urgings for compassion, remained with me. Tri’s first-hand experience of this, gives him a unique and authoritative voice in the current toxic debate.”
A WHOLE NEW HOPE  
Hannah Gutterson

ACROSS THE SEAS  
Noah Richmond

ALWAYS HOPE  
Bailey Burow

ARRIVING WITH STRESS  
Mikayla Filla

ASYLUM IN THE SEA  
Thao Le

ASYLUM SEEKERS  
Brandon Palmero

ASYLUM SEEKERS  
Chloe Wong

ASYLUM SEEKERS  
Constanzan Zacharia

ASYLUM SEEKERS  
Georgia Coulson

ASYLUM SEEKERS  
Grace Adams

ASYLUM SEEKERS  
Kylah James & Mikayla Cester

ASYLUM SEEKERS  
Lola Lear
SAD FACE
Winner - Visual Arts (Primary School Age)

Archie Page
St. Joseph's Primary, Penshurst

I live on a farm and I enjoy all the jobs I have to do. My painting shows how people might be feeling when they are a refugee.

HOPE
Finalist - Visual Arts (Primary School Age)

Bronte Dillon
St. Anne's Primary, Sunbury

Hi my name is Bronte, I am 9 years old and I have 2 older siblings. I also have 2 types of pets a dog and 2 guinea pigs. I love to draw and play sport. I drew this because when you see or hear something about Asylum Seekers you can't imagine what they've been through and what their past was like so this picture represents that.

SEPARATION
Finalist - Visual Arts (Primary School Age)

Imogen Winch
St. James’ Parish Primary, Sebastapol

Imogen is a curious student who loves to explore the world around her. She loves animals and drawing. This piece is the story of a boy who was stuck in a truck. He was separated from his mother. It was really dark at night. When he went to war he was only 6.
ASYLUM SEEKERS
Mariah Stallo

ASYLUM SEEKERS
Trivona Sujay

ASYLUM SEEKERS CALLING FOR HELP
Olivia Ferlazzo-Baars

ASYLUM SEEKERS ESCAPING
Charlotte Horan

ASYLUM SEEKERS
Triphena Sujay

AUSTRALIA
Isaac Pereira

AUSTRALIA AROUND THE WORLD
Emilia Haikal, Lara Hausseger, Jessica Diamente & Alessia Erzetic-Nadalin

AUSTRALIAN BORN
Mikayla Vella

BEFORE WE LEAVE
Emma Truong

BITS AND PIECES
Hanna Miller, Miertta Deluise, Amy Walsh, Chantelle Bianco & Sophie Barnetson

BLOCKING BRIDGES
Jenny Nguyen

BLUE
Tanya Tran
A BIG MESSAGE IN A LITTLE BOTTLE
Winner - Visual Arts (Secondary School Age)
Shereen D’Costa
Sacred Heart Girls’ College, Oakleigh

You don’t have to have received one to be familiar with the term ‘a message in a bottle’. Similar to a message in the bottle, the little girl is trapped out at sea like asylum seekers are stranded and contained on boats at sea. The young girl with her hand pressed against the bottle depicts the action of reaching out in hope someone will find her, like those sending out messages in bottles also have hope of someone finding it. A big message addresses current issues surrounding those seeking asylum. A little bottle is a symbol for containment, the physical abandonment out at sea, but also the political issue which some seem to ignore. The young girl in the artwork shows that asylum seekers are humans first and they contain their own story and message. A big message in a little bottle is an unheard voice. She, like many others, has a story to share explaining where she is coming from and about why she is seeking asylum.

DESPAIR
Finalist - Visual Arts (Secondary School Age)
Maria Nguyen
Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg

An animal loving student with a fascination for all things quirky in the world. Born and raised to immigrant Vietnamese parents with an older sister. My passion for art was developed slowly, initially with fashion designs evolving to portraiture. As I grew older I became influenced by my sister’s volunteer work and realised that my artwork was a platform for my voice to be heard about issues that I felt were alarming.

These are pastel works of my mother who was born and raised in Vietnam and left her country for a better life in Australia. The serious, close up facial expressions show the hardships and struggle of her poverty stricken life and arduous journey to be here today. The details in her face, wrinkles and all, tell us a powerful message of how she felt in leaving her home as billions of refugees and asylum seekers do. This is a more personal and intimate depiction of such struggle due to the close up angle, however I felt this was necessary for others to gain an insight on this issue and to feel some sort of empathy for those in a similar situation.
NO SAFER PLACE  
Finalist - Visual Arts (Secondary School Age)

Claudia Nave  
Thomas Carr College, Tarneit

Claudia is 14 years old and attends Thomas Carr College and has been drawing and painting since primary school. She has participated in other art competitions and is skilled in drawing digitally by computer and traditionally by paper.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND  
Winner - Visual Arts (Open Age)

Genevieve Townsend

Genevieve is a Melbourne-born emerging artist who works primarily in painting, photography and installation. Genevieve believes that art can be a means of expression, as well as a powerful tool to explore politics and experiences of living in today’s complex world.

Genevieve says: I do not have the lived experience of seeking asylum. I can never speak for those who do. I’ve grown up on this big island, far away from today’s violent wars. I’ve been taught to feel proud of golden soil and wealth for toil, our home girt by sea. But the sea, I’ve been told, is not a safe place. Time and time again we’ve been warned of the ‘others’ who come by boat, the ‘illegals’ that should be kept out of sight. We don’t talk about how Australia was invaded by boat in 1788. Debate is closed with, ‘We can’t open the door to everyone’. Compassion is stifled with ‘TERROR’; ‘How can we trust them?’ Can we not see an ‘asylum seeker’ as a person with a name? Should we continue to create walls, where walls do not exist? Will we rest easy, or will we be part of the movement that removes blindfolds and talks about people with people?
I am originally from Papua New Guinea (PNG). I am very interested in the traditional art of my people, which are from Ambunti in East Sepik Province of PNG. My people are known for their carvings and intricate patterns.

My artwork represents Australia being a Rainbow nation. It is filled with all kinds of richness in diversity and multiculturalism. The theme ‘Asylum Seekers, Stories of Humanity’ made me think of how much people love this country and want to be a part of it. The colourful backgrounds represent the diversity of people. The Australian map has a black border around it, showing its separation from the rest of the world. It also represents the people seeking asylum, but cannot breach the border. Hidden outside the border are the Southern Cross stars. Australia is a big country, yet for some reason there seems to be no room for refugees that we need to rely on other smaller developing countries to take care of them. The Southern Cross stars left outside the border, represents Australia closing itself off as losing its identity. It’s beautiful how anyone can resettle in Australia and call themselves Australian, but now it seems that is a privilege given to a certain few that don’t want to give that chance to anyone else. Australia is slowly going to lose the vibrant colours it has, because it is stopping more of it entering.

My name is Jade Pettit and I am 26 years old. I am currently pregnant with my first child, due in August. I am very excited to meet my little baby boy soon.

My artwork is driven by my journey into motherhood. I visualised my little baby boy as a refugee and used this as my inspiration. The artwork shows a Caucasian male baby reaching up to his mobile. His mobile represents the hope that Australia represents to many refugees. His cot is made to look like barb wire representing the baby being in detention.
HAPPY VS BAD
Jackson Ellis

HEART OF LIGHTNESS
Karen Johnson
Nazareth College

HELPING ASYLUM SEEKERS
Ella Darroch

HELPING HANDS
Benedict Alvarado

HELPING EVERYONE
Kayne Seymour

HOPE
Isabella Durnin

HOPE
Myoteer Reech

HOPE
Sophie Kennett

HOPE
Will Mooney

HOPE AND FEAR
Emily Glasgow & Tayla Gollop

HOW COULD YOU
Shannon Dean-Forbes

I DON’T WANT TO LEAVE
Julien Rosse
I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELcomed me
Thomas Carr College

I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELcomed me 2
Thomas Carr College

IMAGINE IF WE SWITCHED
Mia Michelle Bellet & Alana Prathapasinghe

IT’S A LONG STORY
Ruben Stretz

JOE’S STORY
Allannah Olleary

INEQUALITY
Sophie Ford

JUST
Ariana Carroll & Dimity Argyriou

JUSTICE
Tyler Marsh, James Stefanoski, Samuel Ting, Tyler Barton, Koli Lotoaniu & Daniel Bogovic

LET THEM STAY
Rosina Virgona

LIFE OF THE POOR ASYLUM SEEKER
Samuel John Parker

IN THE SEA
Natasha Le

JOURNEY OF COLOURS
Ariel Smolic
LEAVING HOME

I see the boat sailing away and the island is getting smaller and smaller. My hand is in the air waving goodbye. My eyes are red with salty tears coming out of them. I can’t believe that I’m leaving my father. My father is waving as the boat drifts away.

I see the men in their uniforms packing ready to fight on the island. I hope he survives and I get to see him again. I see them packing the bombs and guns to fight.

I remember when we used to play games, laugh at jokes, cook and eat marshmallows and sometimes they dropped and melted in the fire. They were such great memories. But now they have blown away like the leaves on the tall trees in autumn.

I see and hear the big waves crashing on the side of the boat, leaving water to splash all over us. I see the orange, dark blue, purple and pink sky changing to the colour light blue. I can see the yellow sun getting brighter and brighter. I can feel the cold, fresh air tickling my nose. I wonder about my life in Australia…

MY WISH

It is time. I am scared as I board the packed ship to Australia. I have seen other ships go out struggling to keep a hold. I am scared, cold and my clothes are nothing but a few pieces of torn top.

As the boat starts I see a mix of people, some sick and others either young, old, pregnant or others with serious injuries. As we leave I see people on the streets crying out for help.

We are helpless. I only have one wish, is that too hard to ask? …

FREEDOM

Fighting zones surround us
Running from my homeland
Extremely frightened and scared
Explosions everywhere
Danger is behind me
Ocean waves crushing against the boat
My heart fills with hope

FALLING BACK INTO PLACE

I am the youngest of 5, I love writing and playing with my animals. I feel deeply about refugees and asylum seekers and don’t think it’s fair or just.

My snapshot is about a young child who is forced out of her country by boat, but scared and worried about safety, but when they arrive at Australia they are put into a detention centre. They have one wish of a family and warmth, but they’ll never get that wish.

Winner - Creative Writing
(Primary School Age)
Elizabeth Stockdale
St. Anne’s Primary, Sunbury

I am a Grade 5 Student who loves to write, and I care about social justice issues. This piece is about how it would feel to leave a country at war.

Finalist - Creative Writing
(Primary School Age)
Sarah Honner
St Anne’s Primary, Sunbury

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Finalist - Creative Writing
(Primary School Age)
Adele Cook
St. Joseph’s Primary, Penshurst

I live on a farm with cows and sheep. I like dogs, I also like going in the tractor with Dad.

My poem is about a family of four beginning a new life as refugees.
LOVE HEARTS
Ava Tarulli

MASKED WORDS
Teah Phu

MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
Tina Nguyen

MIDDLE OF NOWHERE 2
Tina Nguyen

NEWKFM
Lachie John & Luke Page

NO REFUGEES
Alexander Wood

NO VOICE
Vicky Nguyen

ONE PATH
Melissa Pham

OUR HOME, OUR FUTURE
St Bridgid’s Catholic Primary School
OUR LIFE. ASYLUM SEEKERS LIFE
Teresina Iannuzzi

OUR PRAYERS
Kristina Mialek

PEACE
Claudia Aldous Christensen

PEACE FOR THE SEEKERS
Lily Mariee & Cassie Lawrence

PEOPLE AND HOPE
Sofia Ramirez

PEOPLE ESCAPING WAR
Sophie Menting

PLACE TO CALL HOME
Aphrodite Shomaly

POOR ASYLUM
Jackson Kaine Mc Henry

POOR ASYLUM SEEKERS
Kaiva Hubbard

RAISING AWARENESS
Amelia Charlotte Powles

RALLY
Fiona Nguyen

REFUGEE
Isabelle Hannah Pye
Winner - Creative Writing
(Secondary School Age)

Annelise Adam
Donvale Christian College

I am a year nine girl from Donvale Christian College. I strive to shed light on the marginalised.
I have always loved writing about social justice issues. My heart overflows with the burden of
others. I want to be the voice of those unheard and show another way. I write with purpose
and for a cause. Justice for all and a fair go.

I wrote this story to raise awareness about the injustices occurring in our world. These
things are happening daily, and we need to make a change. The issue of human trafficking
is commonly associated with asylum seekers and refugees. The issue stood out to me, as
I am a 14 year old girl, and it is scary to imagine that I could be in the same situation as the
girl in my story.

STORY OF A LIONESS

'Until the lion has his own storyteller, the hunter will always have the best stories.' This world in which we inhabit is separated by lions and hunters. Predators and prey. We all began equal; the world created fair, with everything living in harmony. Then hunger and sin loomed the earth. We began to kill. Animals fighting animals, each species desperately trying to find its place in intricate ecosystems bound together by a food chain as complicated as clockwork. Lions were at the top, with their speed and ability to kill. Humans were instantly and unavoidably threatened, afraid even, of these magnificent creatures. With their manes of fire, they hunted us. But we, as a species, adapted. We have stepped out of our place in the food chain, no longer accepting the fact that we are not at the top. We weren’t satisfied. We built weapons, destroying habitats as we went. It was in human nature to defy nature…

Finalist - Creative Writing
(Secondary School Age)

Evalina Mabeny-Bai
Thomas Carr College, Tarneit

I am a 13 year old in eighth grade at Thomas Carr College. My family came from South Sudan to Australia in 2003 seeking refuge. This inspired me to join the competition and raise some kind of awareness to people my age.

I made my artwork because I strongly feel the laws and treatment which asylum seekers face are unfair. I also know for a fact that if we were to give asylum seekers and refugees a chance, they could change our world and have a different future to what they would have if they stayed in their home, like my parents.

A FLOOD CALLED HUMANITY

If one person falls, someone will be there to pick them up.
If one person fails, someone will be there to motivate them.
If one person sins, God will be there to forgive them.
However, why is it that when a group of us seek help and refuge, there is no one to pick us up, to motivate us or to forgive us?
There is a flood, called humanity and you are the survivors.
We are washed up, left behind and forgotten.
We don’t only seek asylum, we seek hope, we seek support, and we seek that someone,
That someone who will pick us up, motivate us and forgive us.

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WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN

Emily’s class gathered into the library section of the museum. Whilst her classmates listened to the historian, Emily wandered to the fiction area and grabbed a book whose title caught her eye, ‘Those who sough Asylum’. The cover was blank and dull, as though it had no relevance or importance. Interested, Emily opened it up and began to read...

... ‘Mama!’ I cried. I covered my ears, trying to block out the noise. All around me explosions were going off, blowing up the houses of my neighbours. ‘Mama!’ I cried out again, searching for her. People were running in all directions, trying to get out of the way of the next bomb, not knowing where it would land.

Boom.

Boom. ...

Finalist - Creative Writing (Secondary School Age)

Courtney Cunningham

I’m Courtney and I’m 17 years old. I am currently in Year 12 and amidst working hard for a good result, I love using my imagination.

How will the next generation narrate the history that is today in relation to our treatment of those who seek asylum? The issue regarding asylum seekers and refugees is currently reaching its peak with nearly 60 million displaced individuals in the world. I certainly do not want my children to think that our nation turned away these individuals who are trying to find a safe place to live. My short story tells of a student in the future who is on an excursion at an Australian museum. She picks up a fiction novel and reads a tragic story of what could have happened to someone seeking asylum but believes that her nation would never do something so inhumane. In her world, asylum seekers were accepted and allowed to resettle in other countries without being subjected to harsh treatments in detention centres. Do we want the next generation to believe that Australia is a harsh country that won’t help others? Or do we need to change what we are doing so that the children of the future can believe that this treatment is just something written in fiction stories?

 WIPE YOUR FEET

ive taken in the welcome mat
ive bolted up the door
ive made a sign: No Visitors
dont come here anymore

you might turn up uninvited
you might try a different door
you just have to turn around
you cant linger to implore
dont interrupt my coffee, i dont care about your war
read the sign: No Visitors
dont come here anymore

ive taken in the welcome mat
theres dirt tracks on the floor
theres a certain hostile sameness to these rooms
not there before
and the harsh and distant screaming i must focus to ignore
this house
it feels so filthy
i cant live here anymore

Winner - Creative Writing (Open Age)

Kate Solly

Kate Solly is a writer, blogger and mum to six beautiful children. She takes interest in matters of social justice from the very big (how does Australia treat those seeking asylum?) to rather small (whose turn is it to lick the cake beater?). When she is not discovering children’s toast in her hair Kate blogs at Laptop on the Ironing Board.

I was interested in the idea of what happens to us when we lose our spirit of hospitality. I got to thinking about welcome mats. If we take away our welcome mats, we might deter visitors, but it won’t be long before the house gets dirty. We often talk about how policies affect refugees and asylum seekers, but closing our door affects those inside too.
RUN

‘Name and country of origin. And don’t lie, I know where you came from, I just want you to confirm it.’

‘They’re coming! Out the back, now!’ Dad yelled.

I didn’t have to ask. We knew who they were. They had attacked my uncle’s village four days ago and we hadn’t heard from him since then. About two weeks before that, they overran the city to the South-East. The troops stationed there were underpaid and undertrained, they never had a chance. What hope did we have?

‘RUN!’ Dad bellowed from the front door as my little sister stood in the middle of the hallway bawling her eyes out. Terrified as she was, she had never seen Dad this upset. Neither had I. I grabbed her by the wrist and yanked her away towards the back door behind Mum as she carried our baby brother. I glanced back at Dad as we ran. He was facing away from me, silhouetted against the sunlight from the front door, an old screwdriver in one hand. That’s the last time I saw him. I like to think he was smiling…

YOUR MERCY, MY JUSTICE

Black memories swirl, pushing their way to the forefront,
Menacing sights envelop; I bear their cruel brunt.
Desperation and despair wreaked on faces too young,
Hope diminishes for songs and lives still unsung.

Irrational hatred battles ferociously to be heard,
Whilst an explosion of hostility has the final word,
Resentment and anger never far from earshot,
Confusion and ire tie are impenetrable knot.

The acrid odour of gloom permeates the air,
The stench of despondency sets its chilling snare,
Waves of fear and trepidation waft all ‘round,
Stifling plans of those who are all but drowned...

Finalist - Creative Writing
(Open Age)

Debra Athaide

I am a teacher in a Catholic primary school who immigrated to Australia more than 40 years ago with my parents and three brothers. I was born in India but recognise Australia as my home and the land of opportunity. I take my responsibility to “love one another” seriously and try to educate my students to do the same.

You cannot help but be moved at the images splashed on our television screens of helpless Syrians being forced to move from their homeland. It’s particularly distressing to see children, in the midst of the mayhem, thrust into further disorder and confusion. I wrote this poem in an attempt to express the feelings of one who has been displaced and longs for relief. I can only imagine what it’s like to be forced from your home, know you are not welcome anywhere else and live in a state of uncertainty while attempting to survive and play the “waiting game”.

Finalist - Creative Writing
(Open Age)

Ben Adelberg

I am an aged care and disability support worker as well as an experienced report writer for International NGOs. I am passionate about advocating for social justice via spoken word.

‘Run’ is intended to illustrate the challenges faced by asylum seekers both before and at the beginning of their new lives in Australia assuming they are allowed to begin those new lives.
PROSPECT
Winner - Media (Secondary School Age)

Maria Nguyen
Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg

Born and raised to immigrant Vietnamese parents with an older sister. My passion for art was developed slowly, initially with fashion designs evolving to portraiture. As I grew older I became influenced by my sister’s volunteer work and realised that my artwork was a platform for my voice to be heard about issues that I felt were alarming.

Although these two images are not of a typical scene in which one would describe as a refugee’s struggle, to me, they convey a lot more. The two people are my grandparents who escaped the Vietnam War in 1975 and became “Boat People” fighting for their life to make it to Thailand and fortunately to Australia. With a mindset to a better life they risked their lives as do all other refugees. These images display their now successful integration and life in Australia today and the happiness that can be had by asylum seekers fleeing from war. These images were taken in their garden and shows the growth and progress for all they have worked for to be where they are today for themselves and their children who have also migrated over to Australia. There is so much possibility and hope for refugees and asylum seekers if only Australia opened their arms wider and accepted more people. Hopefully with these two images a more compassionate and understanding response can be had.

WE ARE ONE
Finalist - Media (Secondary School Age)

Raphael Maranon and Roberto Lucaci
Dandenong High School

Raphael is from a family of Filipino migrants. Roberto is from a Romanian family who escaped in the 1980’s. He has experienced an unsafe world.

The work tells a common story of students at our school. Many have escaped unsafe countries and suffer as a result of our immigration laws.

UNTITLED - LEGO FILM
Finalist - Media (Secondary School Age)

Agit Karakollik
Noble Park Secondary College

I was born in 2003 in Dandenong in Victoria. My favourite hobbies are playing tennis, playing guitar and flying remote controlled aircraft but most importantly I love to read books especially history and novel books.
ESCAPE
Winner - Performing Arts (Primary School Age)

Sylvia Smith, Hanna Lim, Lia Angouras and Alicia Mole
St Gregory the Great, Doncaster

The film was created by Sylvia, Hanna, Lia and Alicia who currently attend St Gregory the Great Primary School, Doncaster. We are a group of girls who take part in Mini Vinnies, which we try our best to promote social justice through the works of the Vinnies organisation, so everyone can have a fair life. Asylum seekers and refugees experience injustice. But we wish to make a difference in our world so people cannot see the world as it is, but what it can be! If we all work together to work towards a more democratic world, then we won’t have to worry about our life being endangered.

Our video clip represents the asylum seekers and refugees of Afghanistan escaping war and conflict. In our film, the mother and daughter experience tough trials of possibly losing connection with their father. Our aim was to try and show others what asylum seekers and refugees go through in their daily lives.

WAR
Finalist - Performing Arts (Primary School Age)

Ebony Cooper, Suzi Salvatore, Delana Wright, Ruby Connellan, Taniqua Fordham-Nickleson, Gabrielle Haywood, Alyssa Rowsell, Isabella Morgan & Grace Tabone.

We worked together as a team to tell the story of a refugee. We wanted to show how they are very unsafe in their countries where there is war and violence. We wanted to show how hard it is for them to leave their families and loved ones far behind. It is a hard journey but it is one that hopefully ends for them in peace and love.

This dance is about refugees coming from different countries to find new life in Australia because of something bad that has happened in their country like war, diseases, no opportunities and maybe if their country is very poor. We hope this dance shows you about the topic our group have been aiming for and we hope you like it.

JUSTICE SONG
Finalist - Performing Arts (Primary School Age)

Femke De Korte, Tahlia Sciarrone, Kiara Sciarrone
St. Gregory the Great, Doncaster

We are three grade sixes, our names are Femke, Tahlia and Kiara. We go to St Gregory the Great Primary School and we are a part of our Mini Vinnies. We put our faith in action and we encourage others to. We also believe we can do many more things to raise lots more money and heaps more awareness for those less fortunate.

We have created a song to raise awareness for the need of justice. The song is about peace, equality, freedom, rights and dignity. As the song says, "we are one!"

HAPPINESS SHOULD BE A RIGHT
Winner - Performing Arts (Open Age)

Sonia Tomegros Regalado

Sonia Tomegros is a musician, videographer and photographer from Spain residing in Melbourne. After winning an award for the documentary 'Lligats a la mar', she decided to move to Australia to study music and pursue her dream of becoming a film composer. Right now she writes and performs, practices photography very often and is a very successful triathlete.

Sonia says: “In a world becoming more extremist and racist due to fear generated by isolated incidents around the world and lack of self-critique, we should remember all those people, who unfortunately have to run away from their country. We should let them know that they are not alone and, that even though our governments don’t represent our opinion, we are still there fighting with them. Because at the end of the day, no matter where someone is born, we are all humans, we all deserve to have the same rights.”
UNTITLED
Tai Nguyen

UNTITLED
Vanessa Isaac

UNTITLED
Yvonne Nguyen

WAIT FOR ME
Adam Page

WAR
Isabella Faythe Burow

WAR
Lola Stonehouse

WE CAN HELP
Sandra Huynh

WE COME IN HOPE
Kareen Moraes

WE DON'T HAVE IT EASY
Daniella Musumeci

WE SHARE THE SAME SKIES
Leyla Jazmine

WE SHOULD BE FREE
Yvette Scheggia & Olivia O’Connell

WELCOME, JOY, LOVE
Peter Nguyen
WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR ENTRIES:

Alan Walter - Refusees
Anika Iyer - My Journey of Hope
Anna Cossum - Asylum Seekers
Anne Nguyen - Untitled
Ava Morrison - The Girl Who Came on a Boat
Bailey Boyd - Home
Britney Passe - The Shadow Girl
Elizabeth Solly - Good Neighbours
Ella P'Shea - A Journey to Freedom
Erin Keegan - Refugee Story
Gabriel La Scaleia & Matthew Panfalone Asylum Seekers - In Search of Freedom
Izabella - Stories of hope, Humanity and Survival
Jake Nawby, Thomas Haikal & Jonathan Gunawan, Joshua Dimaruto, Hayden Wong,
Nicholas Biviano & Thomas Milicenc - Peace
James Kirk - Running Away
James Grant - Home
Jasmine Karisson - Here and There
Jeremy Faltas - Jafaar
Jordan Scordia - Secretly Seekers
Laine Kelly - Different Home
Livia Dodd - From War to Hope
Maddi Calvert - I Remember
Michelangelo Cammaroto - Asylum Seekers
Milly Cortese - Let Their Light Shine
Natalie Martin - Perseverance Through Persecution
Nellie Mullins - Freedom
Nicholas Tomkins - Running Away
Olivia Page - The War
Oscar McIntyre - Asylum Seekers
Petros Ketsakidis - Lost
Riley Casey - Hope Less
Tayla Dyson - The Girl
Todd Little - Sojourning
Zoe Ellins - We’re made to be different

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