

#KidsoffNauru: New Zealand

A group of Wellington young people undertook social action for policy change during 2018. Their advocacy social action reached more than 300 people and gained the attention of Jacinda Ardern. Their voices joined those of people around Australia and New Zealand to call upon the Australian government to change its policy and rehome #KidsoffNauru.

The policy

In July and August 2013, the Australian government introduced a policy that any asylum seeker arriving in Australia by boat would be sent to Nauru or Manus Island for processing. If found to be a refugee, they would be settled in a country other than Australia.

The policy has received sustained criticism for its profound violations of human rights. The conditions in which the refugees and asylum seekers are living on Nauru are sub-standard, and they lack adequate healthcare, education, and protection from abuse. In 2016, more than 1,000 leaked incident reports involving children were reported by the Guardian showing the harrowing conditions children faced daily. Children have grown up surrounded by fences and security guards, with few safe and child-friendly places to play. These circumstances have profoundly negative impacts on the mental and emotional health and growth of children.

The United States administration



Children living as refugees and asylum seekers on Nauru lack their human rights.
Photo: Sourced from World Vision Australia

under President Obama offered to welcome refugees from Nauru and Manus Island as part of a deal with Australia. However, this deal is not a solution for everyone on Nauru, and it's not happening fast enough. The United States administration under

President Trump has new restrictions about which nationalities it will accept as refugees. Many of the 119 children and their families remaining on Nauru have no hope for resettlement in the United States due to these new restrictions.



The Republic of Nauru is an island nation in the Pacific Ocean, northeast of Australia. Its total land area is 21 square kilometres, with a population of about 11,000 people. Photo: Remi Chauvin for The Guardian 2007.



Melanie* was born on Nauru, and has spent her whole life in detention, surrounded by bars and security guards.

*Name changed to protect identity. Photo: World Vision Australia

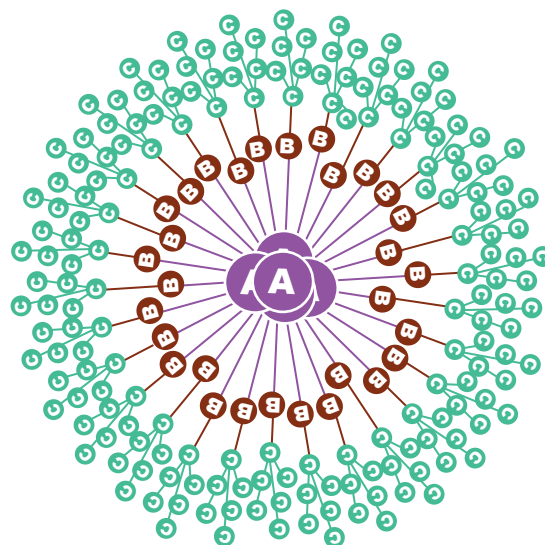
#KidsoffNauru: New Zealand

Planning social action

From 3-6 September 2018, Nauru hosted the Pacific Islands Forum, which was attended by New Zealand and Australian politicians. This was a timely opportunity to ask Jacinda Ardern to offer to immediately free the 119 children and their families detained on Nauru and bring them to safety in New Zealand, so they can access support and rebuild their lives in dignity.

A group of young people in Wellington (we will call them the “A” people) spring-boarded off the campaigns of World Vision New Zealand and Australia, advocating to their respective governments regarding children detained on Nauru.

During their weekly meetings, the “A” people shared ideas on how they could effectively do social action related to this policy. The strategy they decided on used social media to mobilise at least 150 other people on social media which would make Jacinda Ardern take notice and put pressure on the Australian Prime Minister to act.



Together the “A” people reached 30 “B” people who each organised a further 4-15 “C” people.

Taking social action

Firstly the “A” people reached out to 30 “B” people (See Campaign message 1 on the next page) to each organise 4 other “C” people to share and support the campaign via social media (See Campaign messages 2,3,4). The diagram (above right) illustrates the viral nature of this approach. As soon as the World Vision video message to Jacinda Ardern went live on 19 August, the 30 “B” people reached out to their “C” people to share it (See Campaign messages 5 and 6). Within an hour it had nearly 300 shares. The 30 “B” people also prompted their “C” people to message Jacinda Ardern on Facebook (See Campaign messages 7 and 8). In addition, some “B” people held events for their “C” people where they spent an evening eating pizza and personally messaging more friends with information about the issue and policy, and asking them to message Jacinda Ardern. Self-organisation was a key organising principle. The “A” people couldn’t have coordinated 300 people. But the “A” people could coordinate a group of 30 “B” people who could each coordinate 4-15 other “C” people.



Former Tampa refugee Abbas fronted the World Vision video used in this social action. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=XR1J9oJ1Lnk

Effectiveness

New Zealand has offered to rehome 150 refugees, and Jacinda Ardern reiterated this offer to Australia a number of times, especially around the Pacific Islands Forum in Nauru. The high profile of the #KidsoffNauru social action in the New Zealand media, and the coverage a similar social action generated in Australia, contributed to the Australian Labour Party backing the New Zealand resettlement offer and applying further pressure on the Australian government.

The policy changes as a result of this social action are ongoing. On 1 November 2018, the Australian government announced it would remove all children of asylum seekers from Nauru by the end of 2018. In addition, a Bill was introduced to the Australian parliament in early December to force evacuation of children from Nauru and medical evacuation of adults.

Watch Jacinda Ardern reiterate the New Zealand offer on October 2018: https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz-herald-focus/news/video.cfm?c_id=1504018&gal_cid=1504018&gallery_id=199728

Social media campaign



Kia ora! I am getting in touch about the #KidsOffNauru campaign. So stoked that you are keen to help! The campaign has been brought together by World Vision.

From 3-6 September, Nauru is hosting the Pacific Islands Forum, which will be attended by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. We intend to use this opportunity to ask Jacinda Ardern to offer to immediately free the 124 children trapped on Nauru and bring them to safety in New Zealand.

We are doing this through a guerilla social media campaign in the lead up to forum and need your help!

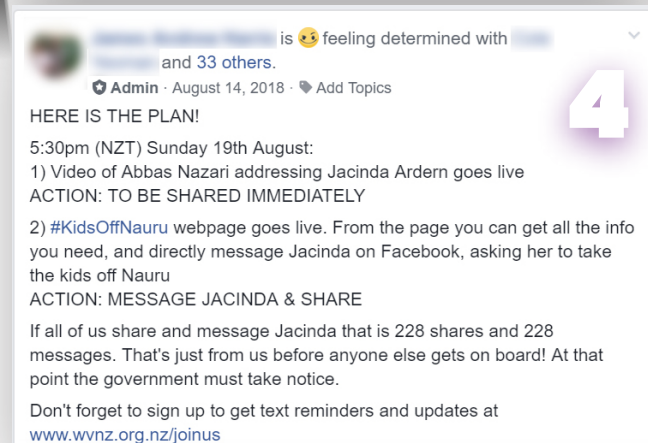
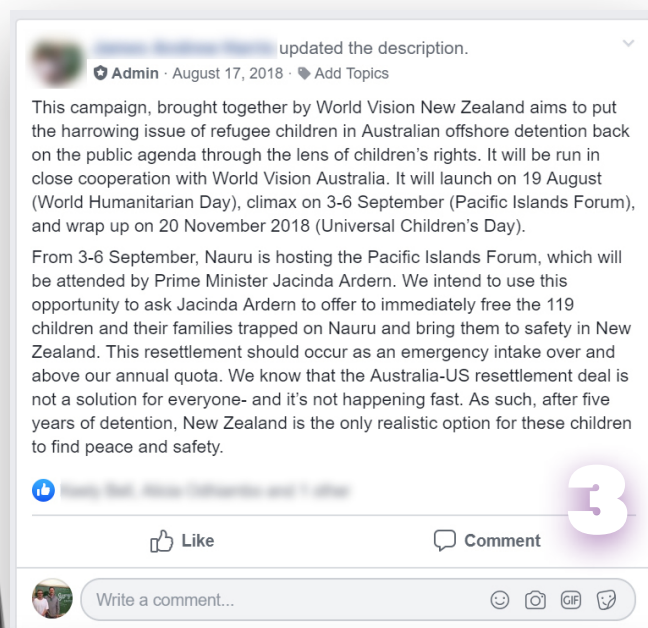
What we need is you to bring together 4 others who are allies for the cause. On August 20th, an open letter video to Jacinda Ardern is going to be posted on her FB wall, and we need you to coordinate your people to share it within 30 mins of it going up. We need this thing to go viral.

Following that, there will be a page people can visit to get more information. That page will call people to message Jacinda on FB and ask the same thing. People will be able to direct message Jacinda from our website.

I have attached a campaign briefing with more info. This is also available in the #KidsOffNauru FB group that I have added you to.


Are you in?

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Admin · August 19, 2018 · Add Topics

The video is live! Please WATCH and SHARE and ask your friends to as well.
GET IT TEAM!



119 refugee children and families that are being held on Nauru

WVNZ.ORG.NZ

Get the #KidsOffNauru

Learn More

45,826 Views

Admin · August 19, 2018 · Add Topics

7.5K views and 346 shares in just 3 hours. We did it team! Next phase is all personally messaging Jacinda at www.wvnz.org.nz/kidsoffnauru

I will keep posting updates and additional media as it comes out.



WORLDVISION.ORG.NZ

Join the call to get the Kids off Nauru!

With your support, World Vision advocates to governments, political...


Admin · August 20, 2018 · Add Topics

HAVE YOU MESSAGED JACINDA YET?
You can do it here: www.wvnz.org.nz/kidsoffnauru

Jacinda's office have a reply. Here it is below - and talking points on how you can respond:

THEIR RESPONSE:
Thanks for getting in touch. Due to the large number of messages the Prime Minister receives, she is unable to reply to everyone personally. However, this is certainly an important issue.
No one likes the thought of children being forced to flee their homes and seek asylum, no matter where they end up and where in the world that happens. New Zealand's offer to Australia to take 150 refugees from Manus Island and Nauru has been repeated a number of times and remains on the table. New Zealand has also previously discussed refugee-related issues with Nauru. The Government of Nauru has made clear publicly that its focus is on working with Australia on appropriate resettlement options.

HOW YOU CAN REPLY:
Hey, so here's what Grant would like us to be sending back to Jacinda's Facebook if you're happy to update your crew: Hello, thank you for all the work you've done to help these refugees so far. We think there is the opportunity for more work to be done. Australia has said that they will consider New Zealand's offer once the US deal to settle up to 1,250 refugees from Nauru and Manus Island is concluded. The deal however was done under Obama and is now hindered by Trump's new travel ban. Please, Jacinda Ardern, at the Pacific Islands Forum - say that because of this hindrance, NZ will take all the children and their families off Nauru immediately. Make this your legacy Jacinda.



Admin · August 20, 2018 · Add Topics

Hey guys, on Wednesday Grant is meeting with Jacinda, thanks to the push today. There is still more pushing to go, but I thought I'd quickly show what we have achieved in just over 24 hours.

Last night we launched the campaign with the video of [Abbas Nazari](#). Just over 24 hours later it has 25,000 views and 700 shares.

An unknown number of people have personally messaged Jacinda. Our estimate based on the data we have is it was hundreds of people.

Additionally, all of the press below has come out today based on our call (there is likely more, and even more in Australian press).

This is just the start. We must keep pushing and get the [#KidsOffNauru](#). Please keep checking here for updates in the coming days.

Stuff, 'Calls for PM to bring Nauru refugee kids to NZ': <https://www.stuff.co.nz/.../calls-for-pm-to-bring-nauru-refug...>

Spinoff: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/.../in-a-few-days-nz-has-a-chance-t-...>

Stuff, 'Dear Prime Minister, Evacuate the kids off Nauru': <https://www.stuff.co.nz/.../dear-prime-minister-evacuate-the-...>

RNZ, 'Plea to save families on Nauru: 'This is an emergency for those children': <https://www.radionz.co.nz/.../plea-to-save-families-on-nauru-...>

Newshub, 'New Zealand needs to rescue the betrayed children of Nauru': [https://www.newshub.co.nz/.../opinion-new-zealand-needs-to-re...](https://www.newshub.co.nz/.../opinion-new-zealand-needs-to-re-...)

Guardian, 'Human rights groups set deadline to get all refugee children off Nauru': <https://www.theguardian.com/.../human-rights-groups-set-deadl...>

SBS: <https://www.sbs.com.au/.../nauru-australia-rejected-nz-s-refu...>

The Australian: <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/.../167a8be7738e4ba3253b6898...>

NZ Herald, 'Plea for PM to reach out to Nauru on take on refugees': <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm...>

Stuff, Post press conference: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/.../jacinda-ardern-nz-can-take-refuge-...>