

INFORMATION ABOUT ASYLUM SEEKERS

(from the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project website: basp.org.au)

- Asylum seekers are ordinary human beings with the same emotions and reactions that most of us would have in similar circumstances.
- Contrary to the images sometimes projected by government and the media, most asylum seekers arrive in Australia by air as ***authorized travellers***.
- They have been involved in ***persecution in their own countries*** that we find hard to imagine from the safety of this country.
- They have already been *traumatised* by what is happening to them in this country and ***lack of freedom*** and security play havoc on their mental condition.
- Some are still ***deprived*** of work rights and no one gets social security benefits during the lengthy processing of their application for asylum seeker status and they rely entirely on ***community support*** for shelter and food.
- They keep hoping the Australian people can get to know ***their real stories*** so that they will not be seen as criminals or terrorists.
- They have families – mothers and fathers, wives and husbands and children and they both grieve for them and worry about them.
- They are ***immensely grateful*** to all those who support them in any way at all.

Social Justice Group