Welcome

Welcome to our newsletter updating you on the activities, people and publications of the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law.

Launched in October 2013, the Kaldor Centre is the world’s first research centre dedicated to international refugee law issues. It aims to bring a principled, human rights-based approach to refugee law and policy in Australia by generating high-quality research which can feed into public policy and legislative reform.

We have had a busy and productive first six months. In addition to our academic research, we have run a number of events, engaged in public outreach and media, and connected others working in the area through teleconferences and research networks.

We hope you enjoy reading about our work.

People

New Staff

In February 2014, the Kaldor Centre welcomed three new staff members.

Dr Joyce Chia is the Centre’s Senior Research Associate. Joyce was awarded her PhD on comparative immigration and refugee law at University College London in 2009. She most recently worked as a Senior Policy Officer at the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

Dr Claire Higgins is the Centre’s Research Associate. Claire completed her doctorate in Economic and Social History as a Clarendon Scholar at Merton College at the University of Oxford, writing on the development of Australian refugee policy from 1976 to 1983.

Kelly Newell is the Centre’s part-time Administrator. Kelly is a Juris Doctor student at UNSW and has a background in event management and community development.
Interns

‘This semester I completed an internship at the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law. This was an exciting opportunity as it allowed me to gain research experience whilst furthering my passion for refugee law in Australia. Given that the Centre is still new, I was able to assist with the compilation of resources to publish on its website.

I began work on an on-going project – a “Refugees in Australia Timeline”, starting from August 2012. August 2012 is when the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers delivered its recommendations to the Gillard government on the direction refugee policy should take. Since this time, there have been a number of significant policy changes and legal developments. The aim of this resource is to provide a clear and concise timeline of events that demonstrates the patterns and policy directions that have formed within Australia. It will also help to consolidate a great number of resources into one easy-to-read document.

Working with the fantastic staff at the Kaldor Centre has been a great experience in itself, and has encouraged me to pursue a career in refugee law. It is a major social justice issue in this country, and I hope to be able to contribute to a change in policy direction that sees fair and just treatment of those seeking asylum in Australia.’

Stephanie Blaker
Social Justice Intern
Semester 1, 2014

Visitors

‘It was a pleasure to be the first visiting scholar of the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, performing research on Australia’s offshore detention policy. Being involved in the academic and professional environment that the Centre offers, my time at UNSW has significantly contributed to my research project and has provided me with elaborated insights and knowledge.

I am very grateful to the people working within the Kaldor Centre, in particular to Jane McAdam, Michael Grewcock, Joyce Chia, Claire
Higgins and Kelly Newell, who have all contributed to making my stay into an excellent experience. Indeed, after my visa to visit Nauru in order to conduct interviews and field research was cancelled last-minute, the Centre’s members did an outstanding job in providing all the necessary tools and equipment to reshape my research plan and to approach the topic of offshore processing from a different perspective. Notwithstanding the relatively short period of time that I spent at the Centre, I can testify to the high level of professionalism and the enjoyable academic environment that it offers.

Last, but most certainly not least, I would like to thank Andrew and Renata Kaldor for setting up this outstanding academic environment on refugee law and I would like to congratulate them with the significant achievements of the Centre so far.’

Patrick van Berlo
Visiting Masters Student
Leiden University, The Netherlands

Statement on Australia’s Treatment of Sri Lankan Asylum Seekers Intercepted at Sea

On 7 July 2014, 53 legal scholars from 17 Australian universities issued a statement indicating their profound concern that asylum seekers had been returned to Sri Lanka by the Australian government in violation of international law.

Coordinated by Kaldor Centre Director, Professor Jane McAdam, and Professor Don Rothwell at the Australian National University, it read:

As scholars of international law, human rights law, and refugee law we are profoundly concerned by reports that asylum seekers have been subjected to rapid and inadequate screening interviews at sea and returned to Sri Lanka.

This raises a real risk of refoulement, in breach of Australia’s obligations under international refugee and human rights law, including the 1951 Refugees Convention, 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Such summary procedures do not comply with minimum standards on refugee status determination under international law. Holding asylum seekers on boats in this manner also amounts to incommunicado detention without judicial scrutiny.

We urgently call on the Australian government to make public its legal justification for this operation.

Australia’s reported conduct under Operation Sovereign Borders clearly violates international law, is inconsistent with Australia’s position as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and adherence to the United Nations Charter, and Australia’s frequent calls for East and Southeast Asian countries to respect international law in the resolution of territorial and maritime disputes.

The full list of signatories can be found at: www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/Statement.

Admiral Barrie, Chief of Defence in Australia at the time of the 2001 “Children Overboard” affair, described Australia’s asylum seeker policies and treatment of refugees as “a mess” which reflects badly on all Australians.

He criticised Operation Sovereign Borders and the processing of asylum seekers as “outrageously expensive for a country that was built on immigration” and called for better leadership on the issue.

Admiral Barrie also accused the Immigration Minister, Scott Morrison, of warning of terrorist threats in Syria and Iraq at the same time as his Department has been offering voluntary returns to both those countries for asylum seekers currently held in Manus Island and Nauru.

Professor Jane McAdam said she wrote the book to debunk some of the myths and misunderstandings about refugees and asylum seekers which have been used by all recent Federal Governments to exploit public anxieties about border control.

In launching the book, Admiral Barrie said: “We are doing our utmost to extinguish hope. We are in a country of so-called fair minded people - yet it seems we don’t want to hear, or see what is being done in our name in the context of asylum seekers.

“The words mandatory detention, which have been a characteristic of Australia’s treatment of asylum seekers since the Keating Government introduced it in 1992, are a euphemism for some of the worst jails we can think of. At least in Australian jails the incarcerated have rights of access to legal support and representation. In these ‘jails’ no such rights exist.”

“I see no exit strategy from any of the processes we currently use that will take the monkey off our back in terms of cost to the taxpayer, nor assure Australians of a good outcome in terms of future economic,” he said.

For more information, see Media Release, Admiral Barrie’s speech or watch the event below.
High-Level Roundtable on Asylum Seeker Policy

On Friday 11 July 2014, 35 high-level policymakers and experts met at Parliament House in Canberra to discuss a long-term framework for Australia’s asylum seeker policy. The goal was to restart the national conversation on asylum, and to consider how Australia might facilitate a sustainable immigration policy that balances protection, safety, transparency and prosperity.

The Kaldor Centre organized the roundtable together with Australia21 and the Centre for Policy Development. Roundtable participants included former Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, Wiryono Sastro Handoyo; Steven Wong, from the Institute of Strategic and International Studies in Malaysia; the Hon Ian Macphee, former Minister for Immigration; Paris Aristotle, a member of the Gillard government’s Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers; and former UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Erika Feller. The roundtable also welcomed parliamentarians from three of the four major parties.

Events

Q&A Panel: The High Court and the Asylum Case

On 22 July 2014, the Kaldor Centre ran a Q&A panel on the legal issues before the High Court of Australia regarding 157 Sri Lankan asylum seekers being detained on an Australian customs vessel outside Australia’s territorial waters.

The panel was comprised of:

- Professor Jane McAdam (UNSW), expert on international refugee law
- Professor George Williams (UNSW), expert on constitutional law
- Associate Professor Tim Stephens (Sydney University), expert on the law of the sea
- Edward Santow (Public Interest Advocacy Centre), expert on administrative law and co-author of Island of Impunity? Investigation into international crimes in the final stages of the Sri Lankan Civil War

The panel was chaired by Steven Glass, partner at Gilbert + Tobin, and attended by 200 people.

The podcast of the event can be viewed on our website.
Participants recognized that there is no panacea in this debate, and that a focus on politics over policy is unhelpful. They noted that forced migration is a global phenomenon, not something that Australia can control on its own.

Contributions at the roundtable were frank, respectful and constructive. Although it was too early to try to reach consensus on any new approaches, some important areas of common ground did emerge, including:

- The importance of implementing fair, transparent and efficient refugee status determination procedures, wherever processing takes place;
- The possibility of raising Australia’s humanitarian intake, perhaps set as a percentage of our annual migration intake;
- Concern at the militarization of current approaches, and the need to build regional protection capacity and foster bilateral partnerships built on trust and respect;
- Support for extending the rights available to asylum seekers awaiting the outcome of their protection claims, including the right to work, and phasing out mandatory detention;
- Encouragement for new community initiatives, especially in regional Australia, that bring Australians into direct contact with refugees and use their skills to help rehabilitate depressed areas;
- A commitment to creating a ‘second track’ dialogue to engage the community, policymakers, experts and politicians in rethinking Australia’s approach to asylum and protection.

The roundtable was conducted under the Chatham House Rule. A full report will be released later this year.

For an opinion piece on the roundtable, see ‘Time to change our perception of asylum seekers’, *The Canberra Times* (22 July 2014).

**Refugee Leaders: Carina Hoang**

Political rhetoric can contribute to negative stereotypes of asylum seekers arriving by boat. However, it is not hard to find the positive contributions that refugees have made to Australia. Carina Hoang, award-winning author, spoke at a public lecture hosted by the Kaldor Centre on 7 May 2014.

Carina spoke about her escape from Vietnam as a 16 year old in the late 1970s, when she and her younger siblings sailed by the cover of night on an overcrowded wooden boat, were chased by pirates, and marooned in the jungle. Carina now lives in Australia and helps other former boat people to travel back to the site of refugee camps in Indonesia to find the graves of their loved ones.

Carina’s story was a compelling reminder of the dangers that asylum seekers face as they seek refuge by land and sea, and the determination required to endure the journey to safety and succeed in a new country. As Carina says, ‘being a refugee is not a choice’.
Global Dignity Day

The Kaldor Centre is encouraging young people to see beyond stereotypes and recognise human dignity for themselves and for others through Global Dignity Day. Global Dignity Day was founded in 2006 by three Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, Pekka Himanen and John Hope Bryant.

In her role as a Young Global Leader and Australian Country Chair of Global Dignity Day, Centre Director Professor Jane McAdam ran the first annual Australian event in October 2013 at NSW Parliament House. The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG delivered the keynote address to 170 Year 10 students from a diverse cross-section of 37 schools from the Sydney metropolitan area. Mr Kirby said: ‘So many refugees have come to Australia to seek refuge and many of them have gone on to become amongst our leading citizens, but there is something about the image of a boat coming on the water towards Australia that tranfixes Australians.’

Students were asked to identify individual and collective actions to promote human dignity in their communities. The Kaldor Centre will host Global Dignity Day 2014 on 24 October at NSW Parliament House.

Watch a short video of Global Dignity Day 2013 on our website.

Refugees: Why seeking asylum is legal and Australia’s policies are not
The Kaldor Centre and the Australian Human Rights Centre jointly hosted ‘Sri Lanka and Australia after the War: A Forum on Post-War Justice and the Indefinite Detention of Refugees’ on 4 March 2014.

The audience was addressed by MA Sumanthiran, Human Rights Lawyer and Member of the Sri Lankan Parliament for the Tamil National Alliance; Stephen Blanks, President of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties and lawyer representing several detained Tamil refugees, and Elaine Pearson, Australian Director of Human Rights Watch.

It is dangerous for any government to have the power to deny a person their liberty on the basis of unsubstantiated and untested information. The problem is magnified here because the detention can last for the rest of a person’s life.

Professor George Williams, ‘ASIO’s new power over asylum seekers needs proper checks and balances’, Sydney Morning Herald (19 May 2014)

Sri Lanka and Australia after the War

On 28 March 2014 the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) voted on the first resolution calling for an independent investigation into war crimes allegedly committed by the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE at the close of the 37 year war in 2009. Previous UNHRC resolutions called on Sri Lanka to conduct its own domestic investigations. To date, Sri Lanka has failed to implement credible investigation into its actions and continues to deny any government wrongdoing.

Australia did not support the US-sponsored resolution for an independent investigation. A statement by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the resolution had not adequately recognised the Sri Lankan government’s ‘significant progress’ in promoting economic growth in areas of Sri Lanka formerly dominated by the LTTE (Tamil Tigers). ‘I am not convinced that the resolution’s call for a separate, internationally-led investigation, without the co-operation of the Sri Lankan Government, is the best way forward at this time,’ Ms Bishop said.

Australia relies on Sri Lanka’s cooperation to prevent asylum seekers from leaving Sri Lanka and provides funds and patrol boats to the Sri Lankan navy for this purpose. Since January 2012, more than 8300 Sri Lankans have arrived in Australia by boat. Over 1100 asylum seekers have been forcibly returned to Sri Lanka since October 2012. Australia applies a policy of ‘enhanced screening’ for Sri Lankans to exclude ‘screened out’ asylum seekers from the refugee determination process.

A recent report by the Human Rights Law Centre found that Australia’s support for Sri Lankan boat interceptions, and its policy of forcible return, increases the likelihood of people fleeing persecution being exposed to mistreatment and torture, in direct contravention of Australia’s international obligations under the Refugee Convention and other human rights treaties.

Meanwhile, the UN Human Rights Committee has found Australia in violation of its own international law obligations for indefinitely detaining around 50 Tamil refugees deemed to be a security risk by ASIO. They remain stuck in a legal black hole, without rights to judicial review. None of the refugees indefinitely detained have been suspected or charged with any offence under international or domestic law.
2014 marks 60 years since Australia ratified the Refugee Convention. In fact, it was Australia’s accession to the treaty in 1954 that brought it into force for the world. The Centre’s first annual conference, to be held on 3 November, will consider how previous governments have balanced Australia’s obligations under international law with long-standing anxieties about spontaneous asylum seeker arrivals, and how Australia might offer principled protection into the future.

Looking back

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Fraser government implemented a political and policy response to the arrival of boat people from Vietnam. Intelligence reports cited in cabinet and departmental meetings warned that millions could continue to flee Indochina and the government genuinely predicted that more than 100,000-150,000 boat people would reach Australian shores. While ultimately only a little over 2000 boat people successfully sailed to Australia during this period, the sense of crisis was very real.

At this point in time the Australian government did not have recourse to the complex legislative and physical infrastructure into which asylum seekers are received today. There was no mandatory detention or ‘targeted military operation’, and no legislation relating to asylum seekers until the end of 1980. In today’s terms the government was woefully underprepared. Yet those in positions of leadership within the Fraser government were mindful of Australia’s reputation and obligations under international law. The Department of Immigration stated frankly and publicly in 1978 that ‘We are locked into international obligations towards refugees which, we dare say, never envisaged the movement of people on the large scale now being experienced’, but it went on to emphasise that ‘Australia’s credibility and status as a civilised, compassionate nation are under test’. In July 1979 cabinet was advised that Australia would be ‘especially vulnerable to international criticism if we failed to respond in a humane manner to the arrival of boat refugees from Asia on Australian territory’.

In comparison, the Abbott government’s Operation Sovereign Borders, premised on a perceived ‘border protection crisis’ and ‘national emergency’, shows a very different respect for the Convention. In the last eighteen months the UN has noted that pillars of the government’s refugee policy, such as boat turnbacks, offshore processing on Nauru and Manus Island, and the indefinite detention of refugees with adverse ASIO assessments, operate in breach of the Convention and other key international human rights instruments.

Australia brought the Convention into force, and in the midst of a genuine humanitarian crisis and a distinct political challenge in the late 1970s it acted in accordance with international refugee law. There is no reason why current and future governments cannot do the same.
Factsheets

The Kaldor Centre has created easy-to-read factsheets on a range of issues concerning refugee law and policy in Australia:

- Debunking Myths
- Can a Refugee who Commits a Crime in Australia be Deported?
- Cambodia and Refugee Protection
- Commission of Audit Report Details Cost of Detention and Processing
- Complementary Protection
- ‘Enhanced Screening’ and ‘Fast Track Policies’
- Immigration Detention
- Legal Assistance for Asylum Seekers
- Merits Review by the Refugee Review Tribunal
- Offshore Processing: Conditions
- Offshore Processing: Australia’s Legal Obligations
- Refugees with an Adverse Security Assessment by ASIO
- Regional Cooperation
- Temporary Humanitarian Concern Visas
- Temporary Protection Visas
- ‘Turning Back Boats’

Videos

We also have a series of short videos in which Professor Jane McAdam addresses:

- What is the Refugee Convention and what are Australia’s obligations under that treaty?
- What do the terms ‘refugee’ and ‘asylum seeker’ mean? What rights do refugees and asylum seekers have?
- In Australia, the notion that asylum seekers are ‘queue jumpers’ is common. Is there a queue, and why do people come to Australia by boat?
- In recent times Australia has introduced a range of refugee policies focused on stopping the arrival of refugees by boat. What are these policies and are they lawful?

Weekly news alert

The Centre produces a weekly news roundup of Australian and international refugee news sent via email and available on the Centre’s website. This is an easy way to be informed of developments in international refugee law, policy and resettlement. Sign up to our mailing list to receive our weekly news roundup at www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au.
New book available September 2014

Refugees: Why Seeking Asylum Is Legal and Australia’s Policies Are Not

If you listen to certain politicians and voices in the media, you might well believe that asylum seekers are ‘illegal’. You might think that they should wait their turn in the so-called ‘queue’. You might think that they pose a potential threat to our national security, and that the government is right to keep them from our shores. Or you might take a humanitarian stance, believing that drastic border protection policies, though harsh in effect, are necessary to deter asylum seekers from endangering their lives on risky boat journeys to Australia.

However logical these conclusions might seem, the problem is that they are based on widespread misunderstandings about why and how people seek asylum, and what Australia’s international legal obligations are.

Kaldor Centre Director Professor Jane McAdam and Fiona Chong’s new book Refugees: Why Seeking Asylum Is Legal and Australia’s Policies Are Not (UNSW Press, 2014) rejects spin and panic to provide a straightforward and balanced account of Australia’s asylum policies in light of international law. Written for a general audience, it explains who asylum seekers and refugees are, what the law is, and what policies like offshore processing, mandatory detention, and turning back boats mean in practice. Using real-life examples, this book reminds us about the human impact of Australia’s policies.

To order the book online, please go to https://www.newsouthbooks.com.au/books/facts-about-refugees/.

Global Trends Report 2013

The UNHCR Global Trends Report 2013 confirmed that the number of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people worldwide has exceeded 51 million people for the first time since the Second World War.
Professor McAdam and UNSW Law colleague Professor Rosemary Rayfuse are part of an international research team awarded a four-year grant by the Research Council of Norway in March 2014. Entitled ‘Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in the Anthropocene: Challenges for International Law in the 21st Century’, the project will be led by Professor Davor Vidas of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Oslo and will involve researchers from UNSW Law, the law faculties of the George Washington University in DC and the Autonomous University of Madrid, and the Department of Geology at the University of Leicester. The grant will help to support Professor McAdam’s research on the impacts of climate change on migration and displacement from low-lying atoll countries, and the international legal frameworks required to facilitate movement in a dignified manner and ensure protection of the rights of those displaced.

Dr Claire Higgins received the Margaret George Award from the National Archives of Australia to fund her research into Australia’s in-country refugee programme in Latin America. The programme operated discreetly during the 1980s, rescuing and resettling trade unionists and former political prisoners while relying on careful negotiation with local authorities. It was a unique initiative, driven by humanitarian concerns and a desire to diversify the refugee intake, which can offer an important contribution to the historical debate about the virtues of Australian refugee policy.

Dr Higgins was also awarded a Humanities Travelling Fellowship from the Australian Academy of the Humanities to facilitate research into the Canadian in-country/orderly departure programme which operated in Latin America during the 1980s. This will complement Dr Higgins’ on going research into Australia’s in-country programme mentioned above. It is hoped that comparative research on this model of refugee processing can inform Australia’s current policy debate.

In 2014, Professor Jane McAdam became the Joint Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Refugee Law*, in conjunction with Professor Geoff Gilbert from the University of Essex (who is also a UNSW Visiting Professorial Fellow). The *International Journal of Refugee Law* is regarded as the leading journal on refugee law internationally, and is published four times a year by Oxford University Press. It was founded in 1989 by Kaldor Centre Advisory Committee member Professor Guy S Goodwin-Gill of the University of Oxford.
Submissions to Parliamentary Inquiries

Submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission’s National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention

The Kaldor Centre collaborated with the UNSW Human Rights Clinic and the UNSW Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in a submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission’s inquiry into children in detention.

The submission explores possible reforms to the guardianship of unaccompanied minors in Australia, building on international law and best practice. The submission makes 14 recommendations which address the conflict of interest in the Minister of Immigration’s role as guardian, enhance the accountability and uniformity of guardianship standards and arrangements, and build on the expertise and positive elements in existing service frameworks.

Read the submission in full on our website.

Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee’s Inquiry into the Incident at the Manus Island Detention Centre from 16 to 18 February 2014

The Kaldor Centre provided a submission examining:
• the Australian Government’s duty of care obligations and responsibilities; and
• refugee status determination processing and resettlement arrangements in Papua New Guinea.

In the Centre’s assessment:
• the Australian Government may have breached its duty of care towards asylum seekers held in the detention centre;
• the Australian Government may have violated its international legal obligations in respect of the rights to life, liberty and security, and its obligation to ensure that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and
• the inadequacy of refugee status determination on Manus Island and the policy of resettlement in Papua New Guinea create real risks that international legal obligations will be violated.

Read the full submission and factsheet on offshore processing on our website.
Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade’s Inquiry into the Breach of Indonesian Territorial Waters

In its submission, the Kaldor Centre argued that Australia’s incursions into Indonesian territorial waters by Australian Navy or Customs and Border Protection vessels without Indonesian consent were in violation of the international law of the sea and the obligation to respect the territorial sovereignty of other States, which is a basic principle of international law. Further, there was a significant and inherent risk that Operation Sovereign Borders breaches Australia’s obligations under international refugee law and international human rights law. The interdiction and pushback of boats is also inconsistent with Australia’s obligations under the law of the sea, including the law relating to search and rescue at sea, as well as the Migrant Smuggling Protocol.

Read the full submission and factsheet on ‘Turning Back Boats’ on our website.

Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee’s Inquiry into Complementary Protection

On 4 December 2013, the government introduced the Migration Amendment (Regaining Control over Australia’s Protection Obligations) Bill 2013 which sought to repeal the complementary protection provisions in the Migration Act 1958 (Cth). The Kaldor Centre made a submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (written on behalf of 21 refugee law academics) on 6 December 2013. The submission explained why repealing complementary protection would be inconsistent with Australia’s international legal obligations and would create considerable bureaucratic inefficiencies.

Read the submission in full and factsheet on ‘Complementary Protection’ on our website.

Repealing complementary protection provisions would be a retrograde step. It would bring back enormous inefficiencies to a system that is already choked, and would remove the checks and balances that the current legislation provides. There is also a risk that some cases would never be examined at all, since the minister’s power is completely discretionary.

Professor Jane McAdam
‘Scraping complementary protection immigration laws a backward step’, Sydney Morning Herald (14 February 2014)
Chapters in Books


Academic articles

- Claire Higgins, ‘Australia’s Little Known In-Country Programme in Latin America’ (2014) 33 *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 8

Conferences and presentations

- Jane McAdam, Public lecture on Refugees and Asylum in Australia, Goulburn (10 July 2014)
- Jane McAdam, Guest Lecture, ‘Forced Migration in the Context of Climate Change and Natural Disasters’, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo (4 June 2014)
- Jane McAdam, Speaker at public event on policy responses to address mobility in the context of climate change, World Bank, Washington DC (28 May 2014)
- Jane McAdam, Guest Speaker, UN Society Climate Change Speakers Forum, UNSW (28 May 2014)
- Michael Grewcock, Guest Speaker at the Public Health, Human Rights and Asylum Seeker Detention Symposium, Sydney (27 May 2014)
- Jane McAdam, Guest Speaker, ‘Issues specific to mobility as a result of natural disasters and climate change’, UNHCR Pacific Regional Meeting on Protection in the Context of Mixed Migration: Promoting Cooperation and Identification of Good Practices, Canberra (20 May 2014)
- Jane McAdam, Guest speaker at the launch of Friends of RACS, Sydney (15 May 2014)
- Jane McAdam, speaker and workshop leader at Nansen Initiative Consultative Committee meeting, Geneva (14–15 April 2014)
• Jane McAdam, Co-Rapporteur, International Law Association Committee on International Law and Sea-Level Rise, Biennial Conference, Washington DC (7–10 April 2014)
• Jane McAdam, Global Migration Lecture, ‘Climate Change and Forced Migration: The Legal and Policy Challenges’, Graduate Institute, Geneva (18 March 2014)
• Jane McAdam, ‘The Politics of Protection’, Annual Conference of the Law Society of Western Australia, Perth (21 February 2014)

Media: radio
• Jane McAdam, Interview on Radio Adelaide Breakfast (11 July 2014)
• Jane McAdam, Interview on 2SER (10 July 2014)
• Jane McAdam, Interview on ABC Canberra Breakfast (8 July 2014)
• Jane McAdam, Interview on 6PR, Perth (8 July 2014)
• Jane McAdam, Interview on ABC Late Night Live (8 July 2014)
• Jane McAdam, Interview on 3AW (7 July 2014)
• Jane McAdam, ‘Offshore Processing – Our Legal Responsibilities’, Radio Adelaide (28 February 2014)
• Renata Kaldor, Interview, ABC Classic FM (24 January 2014)

Media: print
• Jane McAdam, ‘Australia tears up UN treaty with treatment of asylum seekers’, Sydney Morning Herald (7 July 2014)
• Joyce Chia, ‘High Court ruling could redefine our democracy’, The Drum (9 July 2014)
• Jane McAdam and Kerry Murphy, ‘Punishment not protection behind Morrison’s refugee law changes’, The Conversation (27 June 2014)
• Claire Higgins, ‘Slow refugee processing creates fear and uncertainty on Manus Island’, The Conversation (19 June 2014)
• Greg Weeks, ‘Comment on Australia: School Chaplains and Commonwealth Funding’, UK Constitutional Law Association Blog (19 June 2014)
• Joyce Chia and Claire Higgins, ‘Penny wise, pound foolish: how to really save money on refugees’, The Conversation (12 June 2014)
• Joyce Chia, ‘Memo to Scott Morrison – Why Taxpayers Should Fund Advocacy’, ProBono Australia (3 June 2014)
• George Williams, ‘ASIO’s new power over asylum seekers needs proper checks and balances’, Sydney Morning Herald (19 May 2014)
• Joyce Chia, ‘Cambodia asylum plan is simply poor policy’, The Drum (5 May 2014)
• Jane McAdam, ‘Scraping legal aid for refugees will cost Australia more than it saves’, The Guardian (1 April 2014)
• Jane McAdam, ‘Manus Island: the end does not justify the means’, The Conversation (27 February 2014)
• Jane McAdam, ‘Scrapping complementary protection immigration laws a backward step’, Sydney Morning Herald (14 February 2014)
• George Williams, ‘Nauru wrong over sacked judiciary – so is Australia’, Sydney Morning Herald (28 January 2014)
• George Williams, ‘Australia must defend rule of law in Nauru’, Sydney Morning Herald (28 January 2014)
Media: television

- Jane McAdam, Interview on ABC News 24 with Tony Eastley (8 July 2014)
- Joyce Chia, Interview on The World, ABC News (10 July 2014)
- Joyce Chia, Interview on SBS World News (19 May 2014)

Parliamentary Submissions

- Joyce Chia, UNSW Human Rights Law Clinic and UNSW Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention, (June 2014)
- Jane McAdam and Joyce Chia, Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee’s Inquiry into the Incident at the Manus Island Detention Centre from 16 to 18 February 2014 (2 May 2014)
- Jane McAdam, Joyce Chia and Kate Purcell, Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade’s Inquiry into the Breach of Indonesian Territorial Water (19 March 2014)
- Jane McAdam and others, Submission No 4 to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Regaining Control over Australia’s Protection Obligations) Bill 2013 (written on behalf of 21 refugee law academics; 6 December 2013)

People

Centre Members

- Director – Professor Jane McAdam
- Deputy Director – Dr Michael Grewcock
- Senior Research Associate – Dr Joyce Chia
- Research Associate – Dr Claire Higgins
- Bassina Farbenblum
- Dr Kate Purcell
- Dr Vicki Sentas
- Dr Greg Weeks
- Jennifer Whelan
- Professor George Williams

UNSW affiliate members

- Visiting Professor Geoff Gilbert
- Adjunct Lecturer Joanne Kinslor

Advisory Committee

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- Renata Kaldor AO
- The Hon Catherine Branson QC
- Julian Burnside AO QC
- Professor Stephen Castles
- Professor Guy S Goodwin-Gill
- The Hon Nick Greiner AC
- Ian Kortlang
- Maria Teresa Rojas
- Professor Gillian Triggs
- Thomas Albrecht

Steering Committee

- Professor David Dixon (Dean, Faculty of Law, UNSW)
- Professor George Williams (Faculty of Law, UNSW)
- Dr Linda Bartolomei (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW)
- Dr Claudia Tazreiter (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW)