



27 November 2020

Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Chair
Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

By email

Dear Chair

Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee and provide evidence about Australia's offshore processing policies. At the session on Wednesday 11 November 2020, I gave evidence about two reports documenting the impact of offshore processing on the mental health of people subject to that policy, and Ms Dianne Abbott requested that I provide those reports to the Committee.

The two reports I referenced were as follows:

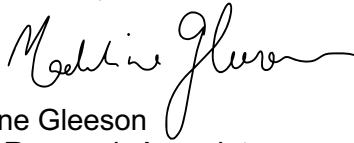
- UNHCR, *Submission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the Inquiry into the Serious Allegations of Abuse, Self-Harm and Neglect of Asylum Seekers in relation to the Nauru Regional Processing Centre, and any like Allegations in relation to the Manus Regional Processing Centre, referred to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee* (12 November 2016) <<https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/publications/legal/58362da34/submission-to-the-senate-legal-and-constitutional-affairs-committee-serious.html>> pages 9-15.¹
- Médecins Sans Frontières, *Indefinite Despair: The tragic mental health consequences of offshore processing on Nauru* (December 2018) <https://msf.org.au/sites/default/files/attachments/indefinite_despair_3.pdf> page 4 ('The data shows that the mental health suffering on Nauru is among the worst MSF has ever seen, including in projects providing care for victims of torture').

These reports are available online and I have provided copies to the Secretariat. In case it would assist the Committee, I have also provided the Secretariat with a copy of a submission I provided to the Australian Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee in September 2019 summarising some of the reports which have documented the progressive deterioration of the physical and mental health of people subject to offshore processing since 2012.

¹ See also: UNHCR, 'UNHCR appeals to Australia to act and save lives at immediate risk' (23 October 2018) <<https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/news/press/2018/10/5bcda38b7/unhcr-appeals-australia-act-save-lives-immediate-risk.html>>.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if I can assist the Committee further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Madeline Gleeson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Madeline Gleeson
Senior Research Associate
Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law