2015 Brisbane Refugee Welfare and Advocacy Conference

**INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE AND PARTICIPATE**

The Refugee Action Collective Queensland (RAC QLD) is planning a Brisbane-wide **Refugee Welfare and Advocacy Conference** this **Saturday 7 March 2015**,to be held in B Block, at QUT Gardens Point campus, in Brisbane CBD.

We invite your organisation to participate on Saturday 7 March. You are also invited to hold a stall to recruit volunteers and promote your organisation’s work. Limited numbers. Please [register your attendance online](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/brisbane-refugee-welfare-and-advocacy-conference-tickets-15002126765). Admittance free, but donations of $30 and more will get you a conference pack.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together advocacy groups, service delivery agencies, and individuals from within the various refugee, advocacy, and welfare networks in Brisbane. We want to [**start a discussion**](http://www.rac-qld.org/#!rac-qld-2015-conference/c17p7) about the situation facing asylum seekers coming to Australia and the challenges of the movement to support them.

With bipartisan support for various forms of offshore “solutions” and the recent legislation tightening access to permanent protection, it is imperative that the movement for refugee rights start making inroads in 2015. The first step towards developing a strategy for the campaign in the year ahead is to connect community and ethnic organisations, as well as volunteers.

Developing strategies to build leadership from within migrant communities will be a priority for this conference.

*A conference to discuss and propose shared strategies   
to advance refugee rights and welfare in Brisbane in the year ahead.*

*A stepping stone to greater collaboration in the future among   
asylum seeker support groups active in Brisbane.*

*All welcome*

The conference will consist of:

* **Opening Keynote Address**
* **Groups Expo** – community groups and organisations are invited to set up a stall to share information, resources, and discussion with participants and volunteers
* **Workshops** – 6 workshops run over two sessions. An opportunity to share information and experiences, outline challenges or ‘roadblocks’, and identify shared pathways.
* **Closing Plenary**

We welcome expressions of interest to hold volunteer information stalls, facilitate workshops or workshop presentations, and suggestions for additional workshop topics. More details attached.

We look forward to working with you in the weeks ahead

The **RAC QLD 2015 Conference Working Group**

rac.qld.events@gmail.com

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**CONFERENCE STRUCTURE**

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| 10.00 - 11.30am: Opening and Keynote Address by  **Kon Karapanagiotidis** Founder and CEO - Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Melbourne | | | | |
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| 11.45 - 12.45pm: Workshop Stream A | | | | |
| Workshop 1  **Engaging faith-based groups**   * 3 speakers * 10 mins each * 20+ participants   30 min discussion |  | Workshop 2  **Fundraising**   * 3 speakers * 10 mins each * 20+ participants   30 min discussion |  | Workshop 3  **Mental Health**   * 3 speakers * 10 mins each * 20+ participants   30 min discussion |
|  | | | | |
| 12.45 ‐ 1.45pm:  **Volunteer Expo**  Community organisations are invited to hold stalls at the expo  Lunch available | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| 1.45 - 2.45pm: Workshop Stream B | | | | |
| Workshop 4  **Community education and art activism**   * 3 speakers * 10 mins each * 20+ participants   30 min discussion |  | Workshop 5  **Incarceration**   * 3 speakers * 10 mins each * 20+ participants   30 min discussion |  | Workshop 6  **Women Migrants**   * 3 speakers * 10 mins each * 20+ participants   30 min discussion |
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| 3.15 – 4.45pm:  **Closing Plenary: How can we succeed?**  3 speakers 15 minutes each; followed by 45 min discussion | | | | |

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**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Please return to: [rac.qld.events@gmail.com](mailto:rac.qld.events@gmail.com)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation Name:** |  | **Contact Person:** |  |
| **Contact Person Phone:** |  | **Contact Person Email:** |  |
| Would your group/organization like to hold a stall at the **Volunteer expo**?  We invite community organisations to promote their work and sign up volunteers. Lunch provided. Donations appreciated. | **Yes No** | | |
| Do you plan to **attend**  A space for practitioners, advocates and migrants to discuss strategy and talk about the big picture. Workshops are encouraged to reconvene after the conference as subcommitees | First Session, 11.30 am kickoff  Choose one  1. Engaging faith-based groups or  2. Fundraising  3. Mental health  Second Session, 1.30 pm kickoff  Choose one  4. Community education and art activism  5. Incarceration  6. Women migrants | | |
| Do you want to attend the conference as: | An individual  Delegate 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  A team of \_\_\_ people from (organization name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Delegate 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Delegate 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Delegate 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Delegate 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Delegate 5: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | |
| General feedback |  | | |