



28 November 2018

Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

I write on behalf of Australian Quakers to express concern at the Government's decision not to adopt the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration. You have stated that you believe the compact will not "add anything to enhancing our capacity to control our borders and manage our successful immigration program".

The Compact is supported by most UN member states and is non-binding. It is intended to help the international community respond better to the changing patterns of people movement around the world. It is based on the need for all countries to share responsibility for the humane treatment of refugees and displaced people, and to work for durable global solutions. It draws on the existing human rights instruments that have been developed to set standards and norms for a civilized world.

Thomas Albrecht, the UNHCR Regional representative in Canberra, said in July that Australia has a remarkable record over many decades in accepting displaced people. We think this reflects the generosity of Australians and has led to a stronger social and economic life for this country. This history means that Australia is well placed to make a positive contribution to international debates about migration policies.

We urge the Government to support the Global Compact and become part of the international effort to devise ways to ensure that the human rights and needs of displaced people and refugees are protected.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.R. Jordan".

Presiding Clerk
Jo Jordan
Presiding Clerk
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

Cc: Hon. Bill Shorten, Opposition Leader

Australia Yearly Meeting

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