

[MP's office address]

[Your address]

[Date]

Dear Mr/Ms [Name of Local MP]

As one of your constituents, I am writing to you regarding the treatment of convention refugees in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Convention refugees are asylum seekers who have been recognised by the New Zealand Government as refugees. Quota refugees are refugees who have been resettled as part of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees assisted resettlement programme. Quota and convention refugees flee the same hardships and endure the same suffering, the only point of difference is their method of arrival in New Zealand. Despite being legally recognised as refugees, government policy means that convention refugees are ineligible for the same level of care, services, resources, and settlement support made available to quota refugees. Asylum seekers are not currently covered by the refugee resettlement strategy.

I urge you to take action against this injustice to ensure that the refugee resettlement strategy is expanded to include asylum seekers. In doing so we will be better fulfilling our international obligations under the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and will uphold our international reputation as a nation built on fairness and compassion.

I look forward to hearing back from you about this matter and the steps being taken to ensure the equal treatment of refugees in New Zealand.

Ngā mihi,

[name]