

CAPSA

CATHOLIC ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM

Following-up action in support of people seeking asylum

GOALS

This follow-up activity aims to:

- To affirm students for their action in solidarity
- To help students express something of the impact on them of the action
- To build on any energy gained from the experience to promote further action and sense of solidarity

1. INITIAL REFLECTION ON THE ACTION

Invite sharing in the group (or alternatively have small group sharing) around questions like:

- What was it like to take part in the action?
- What, if any, ongoing effect did it have on you? Did it change your thoughts or attitudes?
- What benefit do you see coming from it for yourself or others in the community?
- What benefit, if any, do you think there might be for current asylum seekers in Nauru or Manus, or any future asylum seekers?

2. AFFIRMATION

Draw on one or two of the quotes from Catholic social teaching or the gospels to affirm the group for being true to the Catholic tradition and more generally for being human in a generous, compassionate way.

3. ROLE PLAY

Invite a few people to take part in a role play where two or three are students who have taken part in the action, and two or three are asylum seekers, either in offshore detention, detention in Australia or on TPVs.

Warm up the asylum seekers to their respective roles by assigning names and stories (in written form). Then ask them a few questions about their stories so that the whole class has a sense of who they are.

Once they are in role, ask the role play students to engage with the asylum seekers to tell them about the action and engage in conversation about it and getting suggestions for future action by students either individually or as a group.

4. DEBRIEF

When the conversation has run its course or after an appropriate time for the class, close the group and thank each person by their own names to enable them to come out of role. It will then be important for them (especially but not only) those in asylum seeker roles to share how it was for them.

5. WHERE TO FROM HERE?

If any viable suggestions for group or individual action came up during the role play, get a sense of readiness for same in the group. If there is to be group action there will be procedures appropriate for your school which may well need to go beyond the classroom.

Invite students to make a commitment to either a specific action (e.g. letter writing to MPs, talking to someone about their action etc.) or to some further reflection on the situation and prayer for those who are currently seeking asylum.

6. PRAYER

God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost, and those who have been exiled from their homes. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be, and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.