

THE CONVERSATION FRAMEWORK

Stage 1: Establish legitimacy as a trusted voice

- Start the conversation with your experience or a moment that connects you to the issue
- Share how your values underpin why you care about this

Example:

I've had to raise my children on my own, although it was tough while they were kids, we're very close as adults and we know we've got each other's back no matter what happens. My son lives interstate but I know I have the freedom to jump on a plane and visit him whenever I want. So when I think about people seeking asylum, they've fled thinking that if they made it to Australia, one day they could bring their elderly parents, or wife and kids here safely.

Stage 2: Create space to reflect on values

- Frame the problem you want to share
- Describe how the problem impacts on people, how this contradicts your values and who is responsible for it

That's why I think the government's position on visas is really restrictive. Under the government's current rules refugees don't have access to other visa categories.

Stage 3: Transition to shared values

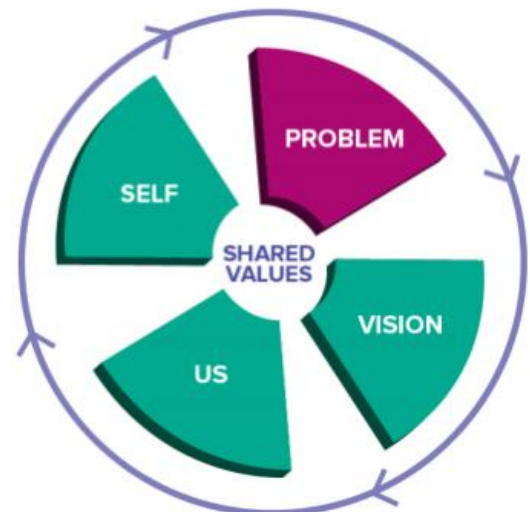
- Bring people into the conversation by asking open ended questions to connect people's values on to the issue and establish common ground
- Ask question about how things can be different to allow people to consider alternatives

What do you think? I would hope that Australia would welcome people with skills who want to set up a life here. By opening more visa categories more people seeking safety can apply. For example, many refugees are from middle class families, highly educated and skilled, if they could access a skilled visa then that would mean that refugee visas are open to more people.

Stage 4: Progressing internalised attitude change

- Invite people to take the next step in finding out more to further connect their experience and values to the issue.

I have been thinking a lot about this lately. My group is hosting an event about this issue next week. Would you be interested in coming along? It would be great to have you there and we can grab a bite to eat afterwards?



This framework has been developed by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and adapted by Oxfam Australia.