

# RIGHT TO REFUGE

## OBJECTION HANDLING GUIDE

Sometimes it can be tough dealing with people who think that refugees are jumping the queue etc. This guide has been created to help you manage these objections if they come up in your conversations.

**Objection:** Refugees pose a security risk to our society.

**Explore:** What do you mean by that?

**Equalise:** I can see why you'd think that.

**Elevate:** People seeking asylum have left situations where they, themselves are the target of threats to their own personal safety. All people seeking asylum should be assessed. In our offshore camps they are not being assessed quickly to deter people coming here. We need to create a fair and efficient process to fairly examine each person's case.

**Objection:** Refugees will consume resources that are already in short supply (e.g. money, housing, etc).

**Explore:** What makes you say that?

**Equalise:** I can understand why you feel that way.

**Elevate:** We can do more to support people seeking asylum, a majority of the world's displaced people are living in nations not as prosperous as Australia. Australia could be more generous.

**Objection:** They have travelled many countries to get here. Why do they want to reach only Australia? Why is it our problem?

**Explore:** What makes you say that?

**Equalise:** I can understand why you feel that way.

**Elevate:** Australia is a country that upholds people's human dignity. We know we live in a stable country free from danger. Doesn't everyone deserve that?

**Objection:** Australia's response did stop people dying at sea.

**Equalise:** Yes, I see what you're saying.

**Elevate:** The boats have stopped but for people looking to set up a safe home we have blocked their chances. We must treat others the way we want to be treated. We must do the right thing.

**Objection:** Refugees don't benefit our society. We spend money setting them up.

**Explore:** What makes you say that?

**Equalise:** I can understand why you feel that way.

**Elevate:** We live in a wonderfully diverse nation. Over the generations there have been many people from a variety of nations that have made our country great. If we change our policy and increase the intake of people seeking asylum then who knows what great benefits the Australian community could experience in the future.

**Objection:** There are homeless people in Australia.

**Equalise:** Yes there are.

**Elevate:** All people should be able to flourish and thrive. We should support Australia's disadvantaged Australians and there are programs set up to do that. By contrast, for people seeking asylum we are actively stopping them from rebuilding their lives, from caring for their children, free from danger.

**Objection:** There are so many crises in the world that aren't Australia's responsibility. We can't take everyone.

**Explore:** What makes you say that?

**Equalise:** I can understand why you feel that way.

**Elevate:** Australia can do more to support people seeking asylum, a majority of the world's displaced people are currently looked after by countries that are already over-crowded, which means they can't properly rebuild their lives. We must take more people than we currently do so people can live in peace.

**Try using the explore, equalise & elevate technique on some objections you have heard in the community.**