



A Beginning List of Fourteen DVDs / Films

For use by people interested in
Refugee Issues

NB Prices quoted may be out of date, and are for private use of DVD. Community Screening costs are higher.

Updated May 2018



Films / DVDs

1. **Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea** *



When she was 9, Zainab's parents made the heartbreaking decision to leave their home in northern Afghanistan. They set out on a journey across the globe, putting the fate of their family in the hands of strangers.

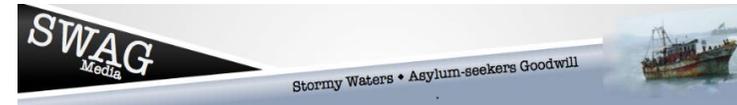
Across borders, behind bars and onto a smuggler's boat – the family chased freedom. 'Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea' tells Zainab's story, and the story of many others who have trodden the same path.

Jessie Taylor and Ali Reza Sadiqi travelled across Indonesia and met with 250 asylum seekers in jails, detention centres and hostels. Through candid interviews, hidden camera footage and in the words of asylum seekers themselves, the story of the 'refugee' is told. What pushes people to leave home? What do they leave behind? What do they fear? Why did they choose this path? And what does it take to turn someone into a 'boat person'? Meet the human faces behind the most controversial issue of our time.

52 Minute DVD \$20, free shipping Australia wide - a shorter version is also available

You can also [Host a Screening](http://hostascreening.com/)
<http://deepblueseafilm.com/>

2. **Storm Waters** *



A powerful piece of theatre, *Stormy Waters* takes the audience on a journey through two hundred years of Australia's migration history, charting our changing attitudes to asylum seekers and asking: Is there a better way?

Performed to great acclaim at Wesley Church, Melbourne, on Palm Sunday 2015.

DVD \$20 plus \$5 p&p

Email: marymutsaers@hotmail.com

Also Check

- [Amnesty International's - 7 free short films](#) about refugees recommended by human rights educators
- [Refugee Council of Australia's List of Films](#)

Learn about the lives of refugees and the effects of policy by watching these documentaries and films.

There is a great body of films on refugees that present an opportunity to learn more about their lives and the effects of policy.



**Refugee Council
of Australia**

3. Mary Meets Mohammad *



This film follows the arrival of Tasmania's first detention centre through the eyes of local Christian woman and knitting club member Mary and Muslim Afghan Hazara asylum seeker Mohammad, who is detained inside the centre, as they connect through the gift of a knitted beanie.

The film opens with the federal government's surprise announcement to build Tasmania's first detention centre for 400 male asylum seekers at Pontville, on the outskirts of Hobart. The local community erupts with hostility as the Department of Immigration hold a public meeting two weeks later.

When a suggestion is made to knit beanies for the asylum seekers at the local knitting club – the response is a mixed one. Knitter and elderly Christian woman Mary is strongly opposed to the Muslim asylum seekers but she is curious to see the 'luxurious life' of the detainees so visits the centre a couple of months later as the beanies are delivered. Mary and four other knitters immediately commit to regular visits afterwards.

Their friendships deepen with the Afghan Hazara men inside, as they help knitting and craft activities flourish within the detention centre. Mary and the women shed many prior beliefs about asylum seekers and witness the centre's first hunger strike. Asylum seeker Mohammad provides revealing insights of life inside the detention centre.

When the detention centre closes, some of the Afghan Hazara men decide to settle in Hobart. The knitters stay in contact with

the refugees and we see a close relationship develop between Mohammad and Mary. Despite this, Mary remains uncomfortable with Mohammad's Islamic beliefs.

The close of the film sees knitter Joy invite Mohammad and Mary to her fishing shack in the Central Highlands of Tasmania. Will a connection of common humanity prevail for Mary and Mohammad, over their religious and cultural differences?

80 minute DVD. \$30 plus \$8.50 postage and handling.

You can also [host a screening of Mary Meets Mohammad](http://www.marymeetsmohammad.com/)
<http://www.marymeetsmohammad.com/>

4. On the Banks of the Tigris *



When Majid Shokor escaped from Iraq he discovered that the songs he loved as a child in Baghdad have a hidden history. To find out more, Majid makes a bold journey from Australia to Israel, Europe and Iraq to meet Iraqi musicians, hear their music and stories, and unite them in a concert for peace and reconciliation.

79 mins DVD \$35

<http://www.fruitfulfilms.com.au/sales>

5. Hope *



400 people set out on a boat.
Only 7 made it to Australia.
Amal Basry was one of them

Amal Basry watched *The Titanic* at a cinema in Baghdad the night before she fled Iraq. 18 months later the people smuggling boat she was on sank between Indonesia and Australia. 353 people drowned. Amal survived by clinging to the floating body of a dead woman for 22 hours. Now Amal fights to ensure that the disaster is not forgotten, reunite her family and “find what it was I lost in the ocean”.

The background to **'Hope'** lies in the dramatic events of the ten weeks leading up to John Howard's third Australian federal election victory on 10th November 2001. Those events were sparked on 26th August by the rescue of over 400 Afghani's from a boat called the Palapa by Captain Arne Rinnan and the crew of the Norwegian cargo boat the Tampa.

“HOPE” features the paintings of artist Kate Durham

48 mins DVD \$34-95

Study Guides: Download a Study Guide prepared by the Australian Teachers of Media with the assistance of the Australian Film Commission. The Study Guide is designed for secondary school use in the areas of English, History, Politics and Religious Education.

<http://www.hopedocumentary.com.au/hope/studyguide.htm#sec2>

<http://www.hopedocumentary.com.au/hope/index.htm>

6. Children of the Crocodile: East Timor



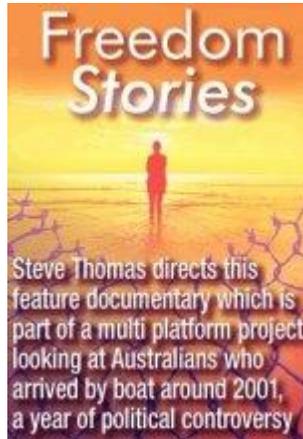
This documentary tells the story of two young Timorese-Australian activists – one a high profile human rights worker, the other a performance artist and lesbian – and their personal journey to further the cause of peace in the homeland they were forced to flee. Although merely infants when their families left East Timor to seek political asylum in Australia, Cidalia Pires and Elizabeth Exposto carry on their parents’ human rights work promoting the Timorese struggle. Their tireless activist efforts are documented through two amazing years in East Timor’s history - from the joy of voting for freedom in August 1999 to the rage at the destruction that followed and time of renewed commitment and hope. Their country’s independence fulfills their lifetime dream, but it also brings hard choices and painful returns for them both. Cidalia, in particular, faces the additional challenge of being an openly gay Timorese woman in a culture heavily steeped in tradition and conservative gender roles. CHILDREN OF THE CROCODILE tells a story which is personal yet universal - about ideals, identity, and the strength of an exile community that is committed to furthering the cause of peace in their native land.

\$30

<http://www.fruitfulfilms.com.au/sales>

<http://sensiblefilms.com/portfolio/children-of-the-crocodile/>

7. Freedom Stories *



Freedom Stories is an exploration of the achievements and struggles of former 'boat people'. Now Australian citizens, they arrived seeking asylum from the Middle-East around 2001 – a watershed year in Australian politics sparked by the Tampa affair and Prime Minister John Howard's declaration: "We will decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come". Some were only children when they found themselves in indefinite mandatory detention in remote places such as Woomera or Nauru and then placed on temporary protection visas, which extended their limbo for years. It has taken astonishing resilience and over a decade for them to build secure lives and start contributing to their new country. These are ordinary people who found themselves caught up in the extraordinary consequences of political brinkmanship but have long since dropped out of the media spotlight. They live among us now and given the Government's boast that it has 'stopped the boats' it is time for their voices to be heard.

99 minutes DVD \$34.95

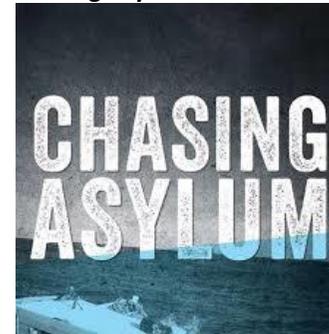
Study Guide: A comprehensive teaching resource which provides a framework for positive discussion about the experiences of people who have sought asylum in Australia and the issues raised by their stories

[Click Here to Download the FREEDOM STORIES Study Guide](#)

You can also [Host a Screening](#)

<http://freedomstoriesproject.com/>

8. Chasing Asylum



CHASING ASYLUM exposes the real impact of Australia's offshore detention policies and explores how 'The Lucky Country' became a country where leaders choose detention over compassion and governments deprive the desperate of their basic human rights.

The film features never before seen footage from inside Australia's offshore detention camps, revealing the personal impact of sending those in search of a safe home to languish in limbo.

CHASING ASYLUM explores the mental, physical and fiscal consequences of Australia's decision to lock away families in unsanitary conditions hidden from media scrutiny, destroying their lives under the pretext of saving them.

The Book: Chasing Asylum: A Filmmaker's Story – by Eva Orner

Chasing Asylum is a compelling insight into a filmmaker's journey, and a very personal story of the cost, risks and rewards of putting yourself on the line for a film and for a cause.

\$23.25

<http://www.chasingasylum.com.au/buy-book>

You can also [Host a Screening](#)

<http://www.chasingasylum.com.au/>

9. Cast From The Storm



Cast from the Storm tells the tender story of a group of teenage refugees who share their extraordinary stories when they join Treehouse Theatre, an after-school theatre group. A coming of age story, this uplifting documentary shares the reality of what it means to be a teenager and a displaced person. This is the story of what comes after, and what it means to remake your home.

DVD \$ 24.95

You can also [Host a Screening](http://www.castfromthestorm.com/)
<http://www.castfromthestorm.com/>

10. No Fire Zone: The Killing Fields of Sri Lanka



No Fire Zone is a 96 minute Emmy-nominated feature documentary which tells the story of the final months of the 26-year long Sri Lankan civil war. Made in 2013 it was updated and expanded in 2015 with important new evidence.

The story is told by the people who lived through the war - and through some of the most dramatic and disturbing video evidence ever seen. This footage - direct evidence of war crimes, summary

execution, torture and sexual violence - was recorded by both the victims and perpetrators on mobile phones and small cameras during the final 138 days of hell which form the central narrative of the film.

No Fire Zone is directed by the Nobel Peace Prize nominee Callum Macrae, a Peabody and Colombia Dupont Broadcast Journalism Award winner and Greirson and BAFTA nominee.

Watch *No Fire Zone* at [Vimeo On Demand](http://nofirezone.org/)
<http://nofirezone.org/>

11. Facts about seeking asylum in Australia - [FULL VERSION](#) on YouTube



A personal exploration of facts and attempt to clarify mis-information being spread by individuals, media and government. This is my own attempt to add to a growing voice of discontent in Australia regarding the lack of compassionate response to the dire asylum seeker situation. There is a distinct need to educate the public in order to cease the inhumane treatment of those seeking refuge away from volatile and dangerous regimes.

THIS VERSION is a compilation of the three episodes of this mini-series.

The individual episodes can be viewed here:

EPISODE 1: <http://youtu.be/EQ275RLfSUo>

EPISODE 2: <http://youtu.be/rMVQAAuvEFU>

EPISODE 3: <http://youtu.be/Yfspg1lyWqA>

12. Hope Road



A refugee from the Sudanese civil war, Zacharia (one of the 'lost boys' of Sudan) lives in Sydney, Australia, with his partner and daughter. He desperately wants to do something for his village, now in the newly created nation of South Sudan. His dream is to build a much-needed school, and he enlists the backing of numerous well-intentioned Australians. Janet, a dedicated supporter, joins him on a 40-day

charity walk from the Queensland border to Sydney to raise funds for this venture. Will this strategy raise the funds they need? Thwarted by escalating conflict back in South Sudan, and shocked by a broken relationship, Zac must decide what's important in his life.

THE SCHOOL

The project of building a school in Zac's village is to improve access to education for the extremely disadvantaged children, primarily girls. The project has been managed and driven by South Sudan Orphan Education, a Sydney based NGO, formed in April 2007. The project is also supported by Rotary.

<http://hoperoad.com.au/>

Please email the filmmaker Tom Zubrycki

tzub@ozemail.com.au

Contact phone number: 0414 683231

Watch the Trailer [here](#)

13. The Staging Post



The Staging Post follows two Afghan Hazara refugees, Muzafar and Khadim. Stuck in Indonesia after Australia 'stopped the boats' and facing many years in limbo, they built a community and started the school which inspired a refugee education revolution.

A real-life, real-time, multi-platform documentary. The Staging Post is about friendship, connection and the power of community.

The Staging Post documentary is about how the CRLC has been established and how the CRLC changed so many refugees' lives. This film tells a different narrative of refugees' life as resilient, resourceful, innovative to create a community around education. The Cisarua Refugee Learning Centre (CRLC) is a refugee established and managed school located just outside of Jakarta, Indonesia. It has been operating since August 2014 and now has 7 classrooms, 12 teachers, 6 administration staff and nearly 200 students – all refugees

The Staging Post is available as a DVD or Digital Download [here](#)

If you a library, school or university please purchase one of the other products. Our number one goal is that the film gets screened widely and we are more than willing to discount or negotiate these costs. Please be in touch to discuss.

<https://www.thestagingpost.com.au/>

14. Border Politics



BORDER POLITICS is a documentary that follows human rights barrister Julian Burnside as he traverses the globe examining the harsh treatment meted out to refugees by most Western democracies.

Julian Burnside is one of Australia's leading commercial barristers, successfully representing some of Australia's most high-profile business people. Until the late 1990's, he mainly acted for the 'big end of town'.

But all that changed in 2001 when he was asked to act pro bono in the Tampa Case and discovered that Australia was doing very disturbing things to refugees.

Since then he has become one of the most outspoken defenders of the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and a fierce critic of Australian government policy. He believes that successive Australian governments have failed to meet their international obligations, breaching the Declaration of Human Rights, the International Rights of the Child and the Refugee Convention.

As Burnside says *"The human dimension of the problem is kept well hidden. The tragedy is that those who suffer it are politically irrelevant, and those who have the power to change it either do not know or do not care"*.

In this documentary Julian Burnside traverses the globe to see how other Western countries treat refugees. Some of his findings are quite surprising.

In New York, he attends the UN meeting on refugees where the world's leaders are gathered, at great expense, to find a solution to the greatest refugee crisis since World War 2. But he finds the West is unwilling to resettle just one million of the 22.5 million refugees currently displaced. He travels to Brexit Britain to speak with a champion of unaccompanied minors, Lord Dubs, who was instrumental in bringing an amendment to the British Immigration Act which allowed unaccompanied refugee children into Britain. The amendment was repealed after just six months.

He compares the attitudes of Scotland, France, Germany and Greece to demonstrate the role political leadership plays in humanitarian practices in these communities. Visiting hot spots of Zaatari Camp in Jordan, Lesbos in Greece and the Mexican border he talks with leaders, community members and international commentators questioning whether the West has lost its moral compass. Burnside argues that political leadership and vision in Western countries makes a profound difference to public perception. He suggests that there is a growing disparity between government and the community in the matter of humanitarian treatment of refugees. Governments increasingly talk up xenophobic fears, falsely labelling refugees as economic migrants, illegals and terrorists. And they are increasingly using refugees as scapegoats in the race by politicians to curb our civil liberties and erode our human rights.

He challenges the audience to consider their human rights obligations towards the desperate needs of refugees and to force their governments to take a more humane approach.

Watch the trailer [here](https://www.rymerchilds.com/)
<https://www.rymerchilds.com/>

For further information - Contact Judy Rymer - 0410 579 637