

NAME:

Statelessness

ACTIVITY 2 – MEDIA RELEASE

Read the following media release from the St Vincent de Paul Society regarding the Rohingya crisis:

https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/News/National_Media_Releases/National_Media_Releases_2017/Rohingya_crisis_St_Vincent_de_Paul_Society_urges_Australia_to_increase_intake_of_refugees/

1. What perspective does this media release present on the Australian Government's policy towards asylum seekers and refugees? Provide evidence to support your response.

2. What are some of the recommendations given in this article?



Teacher Guide – Statelessness

Read the ‘Statelessness’ (page 34) section of the fact book and complete the following activities.

ACTIVITY 1 – COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. In your own words, explain what it means to be stateless.

Student responses will vary but they must mention that being stateless means that they are denied a nationality.

2. Why are the Rohingya people denied citizenship in Myanmar?

The Rohingya people in Myanmar have been denied citizenship since the passing of the Burmese Nationality Law in 1982. They are denied citizenship as they are a Muslim group in a predominantly Buddhist country.

3. Research another stateless group and write a summary similar to those provided in the fact book about the Rohingya and Kurdish people.

Questions to consider:

Student responses will vary depending on which stateless group they choose.

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1. What perspective does this media release present on the Australian Government’s policy towards asylum seekers and refugees?

Provide evidence to support your response.

This media release presents a negative perspective on the Australian Government’s policy towards asylum seekers and refugees. CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Dr John Falzon, states in the article that there is an “urgent need to change the direction of Australia’s asylum seeker policy.”

He also states that Australia has a moral obligation to do more and that government policies have exacerbated the dangers and difficulties faced by displaced peoples.

2. What are some of the recommendations given in this article?

Some recommendations given in the article include:

- Increasing Australia’s refugee intake
- Resuming the processing of asylum seeker applications from Indonesia and Malaysia
- The resettlement of people still held on Nauru and Manus Island