**Evacuate Now – Manus Island and Nauru Letter Template**

 [***INSERT MP NAME AND ADDRESS***]

***[INSERT DATE***]

Dear [***insert the name of your local Federal Member of Parliament***]

I/we am/are writing to urge you to help move our nation in a new direction in our treatment of people seeking refuge, including the men, women and children who remain stranded on Manus Island and Nauru.

I/we am/are gravely concerned that the level of fear, psychological suffering, and threats to safety have reached a critical level among the people currently held offshore on Manus Island and in Nauru. This is demonstrated by the fears expressed by people who were forced to leave the processing centre on Manus Island. They have seen that others living in the community in PNG have been assaulted, left destitute and without proper healthcare and support, and they are concerned that this will happen to them.

I/we know this has become a vexed political issue that often generates divisive public debate.

It is time, as a nation, that we took the political heat out of the issue; that we approach it from a practical perspective that encompasses our Australian values of safety, welcome, and protection while respecting and upholding the Human Rights Convention.

The people who try to come to Australia to seek safety, whether by boat or plane, seek their fundamental human rights, something that all of us want and are entitled to: a place to call home, a place of safety and connectedness where they and their families can work, learn, and heal.

I/we do not write this letter in a partisan spirit. I/we write as a supporter of the Centre of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD), from a place of desire for Australia to be a more just and compassionate society.

We need all people who sit in our Federal Parliament, regardless of political affiliation, to expediently seek a path forward in this regard. Australia is responsible for the welfare and safety of men, women, and children detained on Manus Island and Nauru. Please put an end to the suffering and uncertainty, and fear of continued persecution that these asylum seekers and refugees are experiencing. We must evacuate these people now and bring them to safety,

We ask that you, as our elected representative, intervene to give certainty, safety, and protection to the people subject to Australia’s offshore policy – and to do so urgently.

I/we have the audacity to hope that you and your parliamentary colleagues will find a common way forward, that not only brings the people on Manus Island and Nauru to safety but sets out a practical, achievable, and de-politicised path to welcoming them instead of turning them away. As you do so, we stand in support of you.

Yours sincerely,

**[*insert your name and address*]**