

16 February 2021

Notice of Motion, Cr Leppert: Refugee advocacy

Motion

That the Future Melbourne Committee:

1. Acknowledges the rich and diverse multicultural history of Melbourne and the significant social, cultural and economic contribution migrants and refugees have made to the city over many decades.
2. Notes that the City of Melbourne is a proud signatory to the Refugee Welcome Zone Declaration.
3. Notes that the City of Melbourne's Cultural Diversity Statement acts as an overarching framework to guide the way Council develops policy, programs and services, and commits Council to:
 - 3.1. acknowledging the contribution that refugees and people seeking asylum make to our community;
 - 3.2. celebrating cultural diversity in all its forms through a range of public programs and initiatives that continue to promote community harmony;
 - 3.3. saying 'No to Racism' and not tolerating discrimination;
 - 3.4. supporting processes that encourage citizenship amongst people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities;
 - 3.5. funding and delivering a range of culturally specific services, programs and events; and
 - 3.6. seeking to reflect the cultural diversity of the community we serve.
4. Joins the United Nations Human Rights Council and Human Rights Committee in condemning indefinite and arbitrary detention of people seeking asylum as a gross violation of human rights.
5. Expresses grave concern at the inadequate provision of medical and mental health support services for the remaining people detained in the Park Hotel.
6. In the absence of a public justification for their continued detention, calls for the immediate release into the community of the men still detained in the Park Hotel.
7. Calls on all businesses, organisations and individuals in the municipality to be aware of human rights obligations and to act in support of people seeking asylum.
8. Requests the Lord Mayor to advocate the City of Melbourne position to the Minister for Immigration and Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs.

Mover: Cr Rohan Leppert

Seconder: Cr Olivia Ball