

# Presbyterian Church of Victoria

## CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

### REFUGEE STATEMENT

#### **The Presbyterian Church of Victoria acknowledges:**

- the challenges presented to governments by those seeking refuge by irregular means;
- it is lawful and prudent for a country to maintain its sovereignty.

#### **The Presbyterian Church of Victoria believes:**

- it is incumbent on all citizens to promote the welfare of those within their territory;
- Christians have a duty to love and care for those in need (Phil.2:4);
- the treatment of asylum seekers should be governed by God's command to show kindness and not oppression (Zech. 7:9-10).

#### **The Presbyterian Church of Victoria urges governments to:**

- where possible, both process and accommodate asylum seekers domestically;
- ensure asylum seekers are treated humanely;
- keep processing time-frames reasonable;
- avoid unnecessary delays to legitimacy claims;
- provide access to all benefits and privileges commensurate with recognised citizens when and where refugee status is granted.

#### **The Presbyterian Church of Victoria commits to:**

- address the physical and spiritual needs of refugees as opportunity and resources permit;
- give 'honour to whom honour is owed' (Rom.13:7 ESV);
- pray for 'kings and all who are in high positions' (1Tim. 2:2 ESV).