



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Synod of New South Wales and the ACT

Uniting Church in Australia

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## Uniting Church gravely concerned about asylum seeker decision

The Uniting Church Synod of New South Wales and the ACT has expressed grave concern about the decision of the Australian Government to suspend processing asylum applications by people from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

During its 2010 meeting in Sydney, the Synod said the Government should “live out the ethical commitment of the Australian people to show hospitality to people fleeing persecution as codified in the United Nations Convention on Refugees, which all parties support”.

The Synod — around 450 representatives of the Uniting Church from throughout New South Wales and the ACT — said universally accepted principles of human rights demanded that every human being be treated with the dignity that was their birthright.

It said, “Australian law recognises the rights of people to seek asylum in this country on a case-by-case manner rather than one based on country of origin.”

Synod called on all political parties and media organisations to cease fanning the flames of xenophobia and instead promote a national conversation that upholds the dignity of all people, including asylum seekers.