

*November 05, 2015*



**HEALTH** - In a media release on 26 October, Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) welcomed the offer of trauma-related counselling and practical support from the Australian Bishops to Abyan and to other women in similar horrific situations and echoed the call for an end to refugee detention.

Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) welcomes the offer of trauma-related counselling and practical support by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) through their agencies to Abyan, a Somali woman in detention who is said to be a victim of rape and sexual assault, and to other women in similar horrific situations.

Catholic religious women and men have directly, and through their agencies, cared for and supported people in the Australian community to seek adequate healthcare and other welfare services. That same care and support must also be provided to people who have come to Australia as asylum seekers.

Catholic Religious Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and many other bodies in Australia have also consistently called for the end of mandatory and indefinite detention of people seeking asylum and coming to Australia by boat. A system that treats people in this way is unjust and immoral, as is the treatment of women like Abyan and her unborn child. It does not respect her dignity, or that of other people in mandatory and indefinite detention, as a human

person which is central to Catholic social teaching.

*For inquiries and interviews, please contact the CRA Justice Network Coordinator Fr Claude Mostowik msc via mobile ☎ 0411 450 953 or email [justice@catholicreligiousaustralia.org.au](mailto:justice@catholicreligiousaustralia.org.au) .*

Source: Catholic Religious Australia, October 26, 2015