

Crossing borders

11 September 2020

“Lacking Compassion”, “Brutal”, “Unfair”, “Inappropriate” – these are just some of the terms used by commentators when referring to the treatment that has been meted out to people wanting to cross the “Hard borders” that have been established in a number of our states here

I have to agree that the treatment referred to above does appear to lack compassion. However my question is this – When we were doing this to those of our fellow human beings who were fleeing persecution from other parts of the world and arriving here – where were these same commentators decrying the detention and further persecution of those people.

Before anyone says that those people were arriving here “Illegally”, it is well established that those people seeking protection are not arriving illegally.

At the end of the day the treatment that is being received by those wanting to cross the hard borders is not a lot different to that which we have meted out and continue to mete out to the asylum seekers, in some cases nine years after arriving here. Those of us who are advocates in this area cautioned against that treatment and pointed to the likelihood of similar treatment being dealt to fellow Australians. And that has come to pass.

I say all of this with no satisfaction but a great deal of sadness as to the diminution of all of our human rights in this country.
Suresh Rajan"