

RESTORE HUMAN RIGHTS BRING DAVID HICKS HOME

A GATHERING TO UPHOLD THE DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON
SUNDAY 25 MARCH – 12.30PM
264 PITT STREET, CITY (PITT STREET UNITING CHURCH)

Speakers: Rev'd Elenie Poulos (National Director, UnitingJustice), Rev'd Bill Crews (Director, Exodus Foundation), Eva Scheerlinck (CEO, Australian Lawyers Alliance), Tanya Plibersek, MP (Federal Member for Sydney) and Music by Itu, Stephanie Gesling, Shireen Malamoo ...

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND TAKE PART

MOMENTUM is building in support of bringing David Hicks home.

The growing support for Hicks is about restoring human rights for an Australian citizen held so long without charge* or trial, and about upholding the human rights Australia historically has affirmed.

Hicks' 5+ years in detention at Guantanamo Bay, and our Government's insensitivity to his treatment (by some reports horrific) and indifference to his chance of a fair trial, offends our best sense of what's acceptable – what's right and just. Many of us feel not simply outraged, but deeply hurt. If we allow the injustice to go on, we continue to hurt ourselves.

The alternative is to add a voice to those calling for Hicks to be treated with the same respect and dignity we would hope to be shown ourselves.

That means a fair trial

(not a Military Commission that accepts hearsay as evidence, or permits evidence gained through coercion).

That means the right to appeal oppressive and indeterminate detention.

It means the right – no matter the nature of allegations and charges – to be seen and heard.

Uniting Church congregations (including Paddington, Pitt Street, Wesley College at Sydney University, Wayside Chapel and South Sydney) and members of various churches, religious, political and student groups (e.g., UCATSA) will join with local MPs and legal professionals at the Pitt Street Uniting Church.

On behalf of all concerned at the erosion of respect for human rights in this country, we'll gather for prayers, speeches, singing – for saying, "Enough is enough!"

A collection will be taken in support of David Hicks' legal team and his family.

In keeping with campaigns already in progress, **orange ribbons** will be available for showing your support. A light lunch will be served afterwards.

Contact Rev'd Andrew Collis (0438 719 470 sshandrew@bigpond.com), Pastor Graham Long (graham@thewaysidechapel.com), or Rev'd Ian Pearson (pearsn@bigpond.com).

*A charge has now been lodged. Hicks will be charged with "providing material support to a terrorist group" – a retrospective charge that did not exist for non-US citizens at the time of Hicks' arrest.



"The Uniting Church believes that every human being is precious, and that it is a fundamental responsibility of the Australian Government to ensure that its citizens are treated with dignity and respect ... We do not condone terrorism and believe that terrorists should be brought to justice, but justice is not served when prisoners are abused and the right to a fair trial is removed."

—Rev'd Gregor Henderson, President, Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly (5 February 2007)