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GLOBAL CENTRE FOR PLURALISM AWARDS DANIEL WEBB OF AUSTRALIA WITH THE 2017 GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCES AUSTRALIAN LAWYER FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS, WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S INAUGURAL AWARD

OTTAWA – October 3, 2017 – A pioneer of advocacy for asylum seekers, Daniel Webb of Australia has prevented the deportation of hundreds of men, women and children back to offshore immigration detention centres maintained by the Australian government. The [Global Centre for Pluralism](#), an international research and education organization dedicated to advancing respect for diversity around the world, has selected Webb as a winner of the inaugural [Global Pluralism Award](#), raising international awareness and concern about policies that are a threat to inclusive societies.

“The asylum seeker issue in Australia points to a staggering global crisis. The world is dealing with the largest number of global refugees since the Second World War. Asylum seekers arriving at shorelines and borders – at times in considerable distress – must be dealt with in a way that respects their humanity. Daniel Webb is paving a way for global leaders by protecting asylum seekers from horrendous detention and shifting the public conversation from one of deterrence to welcome,” said Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada and Chair of the Jury. “As Webb himself explains, ‘by locking up refugees indefinitely, we are not only depriving them of their most basic rights but also depriving ourselves of all that they have to offer our communities.’”

The international award jury selected Webb as a winner out of 200 nominees for his innovative approach to tackling the offshore detention issue in Australia. Webb has successfully used legal action, media advocacy, public campaigns and engagement with the United Nations to hold the Australian government accountable for breaches of international laws to protect refugees.

In 2016, Webb led a public advocacy campaign that prevented the deportation of more than 300 people, including 40 infants and 50 children, to the offshore detention centres on the islands of Manus, in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. Webb's advocacy cut through toxic rhetoric about refugees by focusing on their human stories and shifted public opinion in favour of them staying in Australia. Through his work, he has also prompted the release of more than 230 people from detention, giving them safety and a chance at a new life.

The Global Centre for Pluralism, founded by His Highness the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada, will recognize Webb and two other Global Pluralism Award winners, Alice Wairimu Nderitu of Kenya and Leyner Palacios Asprilla of Colombia, for their extraordinary and innovative work to advance respect for diversity at the inaugural award ceremony on November 15, 2017 in Ottawa, Canada. Each winner will receive \$50,000 CAD to further their work.

About the Global Centre for Pluralism

Founded in Ottawa by His Highness the Aga Khan in partnership with the Government of Canada, the Global Centre for Pluralism is an independent, charitable organization. Inspired by Canada's experience as a diverse and inclusive country, the Centre was created to advance positive responses to the challenge of living peacefully and productively together in diverse societies.

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Award Winners:

[Leyner Palacios Asprilla](#), Comité por los Derechos de las Víctimas de Bojayá, Colombia
[Alice Wairimu Nderitu](#), Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Kenya
[Daniel Webb](#), Human Rights Law Centre, Australia

Honourable Mentions:

[ATD Quart Monde](#), France
[BeAnotherLab](#), Spain
[Fundación Construir](#), Bolivia
[Hand Talk](#), Brazil
[Sawa for Development and Aid](#), Lebanon
[Wapikoni Mobile](#), Canada
[Welcoming America](#), United States