



**Edmund Rice Centre**

Awareness. Advocacy. Action

## MEDIA RELEASE

20 December 2017

### The Edmund Rice Centre's Guide to Surviving Christmas

The Edmund Rice Centre today released the [\*\*Guide to Surviving Christmas: How to Speak up for Social Justice this Christmas.\*\*](#)

Director of the Edmund Rice Centre Phil Glendenning said the Guide was developed to help people constructively respond to statements of misinformation about social justice, human rights and eco-justice issues this festive season.

"There has been a significant amount of misinformation spread this year about immigration, Muslims, climate change and Indigenous Australians, especially in the media and from extremist politicians," Mr Glendenning said.

"Many of us will be spending time this Christmas and holiday season with people who like to recite what they hear on talkback radio or in the tabloid press, even if the statements are incorrect.

"The Guide is designed to help people respond to these statements and speak up for social justice this Christmas.

"We should never forget that at the heart of the Christmas story is a Middle Eastern family seeking refuge. Christmas is also a timely reminder that after his birth, Jesus and his family were forced to flee their homeland and take refuge in Egypt – a strange land where people spoke another language and worshipped different gods."

The Guide provides responses to some of the common misstatements that have been spread throughout 2017, including:

***"If we bring refugees on Manus and Nauru to Australia, or take up the NZ resettlement offer, the boats will just start again." [Read our suggested response.](#)***

***"We need to build more coal power plants and keep existing plants open...coal is cheaper than renewable energy and better for jobs." [Read our suggested response.](#)***

***"The Uluru Statement is divisive...it wouldn't pass a referendum...an Indigenous Voice to Parliament would be like a third chamber of Parliament..." [Read our suggested response.](#)***

The Guide also includes tips to help people keep conversations constructive and avoid arguments.

The Guide can be accessed at [www.erc.org.au/surviving\\_christmas.](http://www.erc.org.au/surviving_christmas)

**Contact: Dominic Ofner 0407 678 564**