

NAME:

Life in Detention Centres

Read the 'Australia's Asylum Seeker Processing Centres' (page 22) and 'Children in Detention' (page 23) sections of the factbook.

ACTIVITY 1

Use the table to list the negative physical and mental aspects of detention centres.

PHYSICAL	MENTAL

ACTIVITY 2

Use the information you have read and pictures you have seen of detention centres to fill in the Y chart. What do the living conditions look like? How would you feel? What sounds would you hear?

The Y-shaped chart is divided into three sections. The top section is yellow and labeled 'SOUNDS LIKE' with an ear icon. The bottom-left section is light blue and labeled 'LOOKS LIKE' with an eye icon. The bottom-right section is light grey and labeled 'FEELS LIKE' with a brain icon.

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ACTIVITY 3

<https://www.unicef.org.au/Upload/UNICEF/Media/Our%20work/childfriendlycrc.pdf>

This document shows all of the articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Read through the articles and identify which articles are breached when children are kept in detention.

Go to: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/Submission%20No%2098%20-Name%20withheld%20-%20Child%20detained%20in%20Nauru%20OPC.pdf>

This is a submission written by a child who was in the Nauru detention centre in 2014. The child talks about the conditions in the detention centre as well as how he/she is feeling.

What key points does the child make about health care in the centre?

What does the child say about how people in the detention centre feel?

What does the child say about their own mental health?

What is the child worried about?

Where has the child fled from? Do some further research on this country and explain some of the reasons why people flee from this country.

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ACTIVITY 4

Using all the information you have gathered completing the previous 5 tasks, imagine you are a child in a detention centre and write a diary entry about a typical day in the centre. Focus on some of the things that you would do every day and the struggles associated with doing even the most basic tasks.

Also focus on the emotions being felt. The '[Diary Structure and Editing Checklist](#)' will help you with this task.



Teacher Guide – Life in Detention Centres

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ACTIVITY 1

Use the table to list the negative physical and mental aspects of detention centres.

PHYSICAL	MENTAL
Hygiene and health risks.	Solitary confinement.
Inadequate medical services.	Family separation.
Extreme temperatures.	Increased risk of mental health disorders.
Increased exposure to violence and abuse.	Lack of access to education.
Physical underdevelopment in children.	Reduced intellectual abilities and development in children.
	Diminished social skills.

ACTIVITY 3

1. Read through the articles and identify which articles are breached when children are kept in detention.

Articles 6, 9, 10, 19, 22, 24, 27, 28, 31, 36

2. What key points does the child make about health care in the centre?

The child says there is no health care on Nauru. She states that when someone is sick, they are just given Panadol or told to drink water. The other option is being sent to a dirty, hot, smelly room called the isolation room. This means that illnesses often spread throughout the camp.

3. What does the child say about how people in the detention centre feel?

The mental state of people in the detention centre is terrible. All of the detainees spend their days thinking about getting out of the camp and getting their freedom back. She says that everyone misses small things, like getting in their own shower.

4. What does the child say about their own mental health?

The child says that she has changed a lot since being in detention. She believes she is no longer fun and all she thinks about is ‘bad stuff’.

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ACTIVITY 3

5. What is the child worried about?

She is worried about whether or not the Australian Government is going to accept her case (to become a refugee and settle in Australia) and what would happen to her if it wasn't accepted. The child doesn't know how long the process is going to take.

6. Where has the child fled from? Do some further research on this country and explain some of the reasons why people flee from this country.

The child has fled from Iran. People in Iran are often persecuted for their political views, race, sexuality or religion. Many people have fled Iran since 2009, in the aftermath of the presidential election and subsequent government crackdown. Kurdish people and women are both discriminated against in Iranian law and do not have the same access to education or employment as the rest of the population.