



departure back to their poverty stricken, war torn countries where a sense of basic human rights is violated.

I am passionate about working towards remedying human rights atrocities happening around the world, such as the 25 year civil war which occurred in Sri Lanka. This is what really sparked my long-term interest in studying law and my strong passion towards the issues of human rights –this stems coming from a Sri Lankan background having family members who lived through and were affected by the war crimes. My parents were lucky to have migrated to Australia during the worst of times, and as immigrants they have always been very grateful for the opportunity to be able to live here.

Australia is now home to thousands of Sri Lankan refugees who witnessed potential war crimes in the final stages of the brutal civil war. Sri Lanka had promised a judicial process that would involve international judges and prosecutors- but it's now backing away from that commitment. Sri Lankan war crimes victims living in Australia say they would not trust a Sri Lankan court to hear their testimony. I may not have been able to help the helpless in Sri Lanka, but I am able to help them here in Australia. I want to be a strong advocate for Refugee people whether they are from Sri Lanka or any part of the world. The situation in which these people arrive here are nothing we, as Australians can even imagine. I want to be a familiar face for them to rely on, and fight for their rights and safety in a country they have come running to with no hope. The people who were affected by the war do not seek to glorify war, because as victims they know too well the pain and the suffering that a brutal war brings in its trail. As a fellow Sri Lankan, we do seek to remember, honour and mourn our war dead, deep within our hearts with gratitude and humility - for their immense bravery, dedication and sacrifice in the liberation struggle to save our nation.

The law, however, supports the violation of basic civil liberties and renders irrelevant in Sri Lanka the right to a fair trial. In its application it has been a lesson in the selective application of extraordinary security powers and the politicisation of law enforcement. The PTA needs to be abolished and comprehensive measures needs to be taken to deliver justice to those who have been denied it. We, as Australians, should give voice to support these people who have been so abused, and I as an Australian and future lawyer will.