

# Go Back To Where You Came From

Transcript



## Jodi's Journey

### Clip 1: Meet Shomsul

JODI: I feel like the future for my children might be that they are in the minority. You know I am not saying that people of Muslim background can't be in Australia as well. But I certainly don't want to see a majority of people from those countries.

**NARRATOR: AND SHE DOESN'T LIKE THE WAY SOME REFUGEES GET HERE.**

JODI: I think they are jumping the queue and that they need to apply the same way everyone else does.

**NARRATOR: JODI DOESN'T KNOW IT YET BUT SHE'S ABOUT TO STAY WITH A 'QUEUE JUMPER', WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE MUSLIM.**

DAVY: Hello. How are you? Davy.

JODI: Hello. Hello.

RENEE: Hi.

SHOMSUL: Please come.

DAVY: Thank you.

**NARRATOR: SHOMSUL ALAM IS FROM MYANMAR, ALSO KNOWN AS BURMA. HE SPEAKS LITTLE ENGLISH AND RELIES ON A TRANSLATOR.**

JODI: Do you work?

SHOMSUL: No.

JODI: Do you have any skills from back home?

SHOMSUL: I was a farmer in my country and I owned a shop.

DAVY: How long have you been in Australia?

SHOMSUL: One year, six months.

DAVY: One year, six months, yeah. Do you have a family overseas?

SHOMSUL: Three boys, three girls

DAVY: Three boys and three girls. Wow. That's a big family.

**NARRATOR: SHOMSUL IS ROHINGYA, A MUSLIM ETHNIC MINORITY NOT RECOGNIZED IN BUDDHIST BURMA.**

DAVY: Can you explain to me why you have to leave your country?

SHOMSUL: In Burma, a lot of Rohingya were accused of being rebels and were shot dead. My father and I were both badly beaten. That is why I fled.

RENEE: I'm sorry.

JODI: I feel a little bit uncomfortable just because they don't speak English. There's a translator. I wonder how dire their situation really is or is it just a way to get a better life and then bring their family over.

**NARRATOR: ROHINGYA ARE OFTEN DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST PERSECUTED MINORITIES. THEY ARE DENIED THE RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP, PREVENTED FROM OWNING LAND AND NEED PERMISSION TO MARRY. IT IS ILLEGAL TO HAVE MORE THAN TWO CHILDREN.**

SHOMSUL: The Burmese told us "You are Muslim. You don't belong here. It's not your country. This is our country, go away." They constantly beat us to make us leave. The authorities grabbed our land and snatched our property. Bit by bit all our land was given to the Buddhists.

**NARRATOR: FEARING FOR HIS LIFE, SHOMSUL FLED TO A REFUGEE CAMP IN NEIGHBOURING BANGLADESH.**

DAVY: So you feel like you've been mistreated in your country so that's the reason you decided to leave Burma?