

RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME

June 2016

Welcome to this month's supporter update!

It's been a huge month for race issues in Australia. As the results of the federal election begin to settle there has been a significant amount of media surrounding race and racism. Commissioner Soutphommasane has warned that it's not in the national interest for politicians to give a license to prejudice.



Update from the Commissioner

“Like many others, I am disappointed to see a return to the inflammatory rhetoric and appeals to xenophobia we saw in the 1990s. Our politicians should set the right tone for public debate. They shouldn't give license to prejudice and nastiness.

“I've responded to recent comments by Pauline Hanson about Islam and Asians on the ABC [here](#) and [here](#), and also through an opinion piece in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#), the [Age](#) and the [Huffington Post](#). Among other interviews, I also joined ABC [RN Breakfast's](#) Fran

Kelly, 3AW's [Neil Mitchell](#) and 2GB's [Warren Moore](#).

“As I've said, we must be prepared to call out racism and bigotry. We can have discussions about race, immigration and multiculturalism - but the manner in which we conduct our debates matters. Free speech isn't an excuse for hate speech.”

Tim Soutphommasane

It's time to get active

We commend all our supporters for the steps they have taken by being part of 'Racism. It Stops With Me' and we encourage you all to continue to engage in the campaign to challenge racism in your personal lives, workplaces and communities.

We would like to hear from supporters who are interested in doing coordinated 'Racism. It Stops With Me' community engagement activities over the next few months. You can contact us at antiracismsecretariat@humanrights.gov.au

Supporter of the month: National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council



Congratulations to the **National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council** for being named supporter of the month!

This year NEMBC marks 30 years advocating for multiculturalism and media diversity. The NEMBC continues to play a significant role in helping people connect to, and maintain language, culture and identity. We commend them for their long term engagement supporting and promoting multiculturalism and challenging racism in Australia.



In June NEMBC hosted an inaugural National Conference on Migration, Media and Integration /Social Cohesion. The conference drew together leading decision makers, thinkers and multicultural specialists to discuss and debate key issues that related to misrepresentations of migrant communities in the mainstream media. (Image: Indira Naidoo at the National Conference on Migration, Media and Integration/Social Cohesion)

If your organisation would like to go in the running to be supporter of the month, let us know what you are doing to support the campaign. Email antiracismsecretariat@humanrights.gov.au. **All supporters of the month receive a free pack of campaign merchandise.**

Supporter activities:



Click against Hate is an educational program designed for students in Year 5-6 and Year 7-10 that has been run in over 100 schools in Melbourne. The program is presented by trained and qualified educators with extensive experience in the classroom and teaches students the meaning of: incitement, defamation, racism (in all its forms), Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, homophobia, invasion of privacy, cyber bullying, being a by-stander, You-Tube, Facebook reporting, freedom of speech and website reliability. (Image: Poster designed by students participating in Click Against Hate)

Race Discrimination Commissioner's Student Prize now open!

The Race Discrimination Commissioner's Student Prize is an annual competition for school students aimed to promote research and discussion of racism among young people. The competition is open to students in Years 10 and 11 in an Australian school.

What do entrants need to do?

Entrants may write an essay (maximum 1,000 words) or record a speech (video or audio maximum 7 minutes).

Entrants must answer one of the following questions:

1. What role should the law play in Australian society's response to racism?
2. Ignorance is the root of racism. Discuss.
3. What challenges does racism pose to Australian society today?

Prize and judging

The winning student will be awarded a book voucher from Dymocks worth \$150. Their work will also be featured in the Commissioner's monthly newsletter. The winning student's school will be awarded a book voucher from Dymocks worth \$500. The best entry will be selected by the Race Discrimination Commissioner and the winner will be awarded their prize at the Annual Kep Enderby Memorial Lecture in Sydney in October 2016. [For more information, please visit the Racism it Stops with Me website.](#)



Entries close on 17 September 2016

Human Rights Awards nomination are now open:



The Human Rights Awards is the pinnacle of human rights recognition in Australia. Each year we are proud to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of individuals and organisations in promoting and protecting human rights and freedoms.

(Image: 2015 Racism it Stops with Me Award winners, Tasmanian Students Against Racism)

The 'Racism. It Stops With Me' Award recognises the contribution of an organisation to reducing and preventing racism in Australia. Organisations can include community groups or businesses and they can be recognised for a range of anti-racism work including education and prevention.

The Commission encourages nominations from 'Racism. It Stops With Me' Supporters

Nominations [close 11 September 2016](#)

Meet the new team

Dr Annie Pettitt, Manager of Education and Innovation. Annie has extensive experience and expertise in a range of human rights areas. She has a particular interest in human rights education, community engagement and capacity building. Annie completed her PhD in human rights and policing. Annie's current work is focused on integrating human rights education into school curricula, public service training, vocational education and training, business policies and processes, and in making human rights accessible and relevant to everyone.



Katerina Lecchi, Education and Campaign Coordinator, National Anti-Racism Strategy. Katerina is passionate about building the capacity of organisations and individuals to better address human rights issues. She has a Master of Teaching and a Master of Human Rights Law and Policy and has extensive experience in the public and not for profit sector.



Please contact us at antiracismsecretariat@humanrights.gov.au

Supporter Welcome!

A big welcome to our new supporters, sports organisations include the [West Coast Eagles](#), [Souths Cares](#) and [Titans Rugby League](#). Community organisations include [Perth Inner City Youth Services](#) We also welcome [Off the Plan Express](#), from the business sector.

From the arts sector we welcome [Country Arts South Australia](#), who have begun their involvement with a cultural sharing session and presentation about racism.

Thanks for taking positive steps to take a stand against racism and promote diversity and inclusion within your community. We look forward to involvement in the campaign.

Don't forget to tell us about any of the great activities you've been involved in to support the campaign!

Until next time!
The campaign team