

## **Statement on International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination:**

21st March marks the International Day on Elimination of Racial Discrimination or Harmony Day which is celebrated annually to recognise that Australia is made up of thousands of years of rich First Nations history. This country in the last few centuries has become a rich intercultural hub for new cultures to grow and flourish in the lands of the different countries of the First Nations people. As migrants, second-generation residents, and / or as people with rich cultural backgrounds, it is important to celebrate the different experiences that bring us together and enable us all to live together.

But it is important to recognise that on the International Day on Elimination of Racial Discrimination we cannot deeply celebrate diversity in Australia when there is still work to be done to eliminate racism across various levels of interaction, experienced by First Nations people and People of Colour. And to profoundly move forward towards a more positive future, there is more work to be done.

If you are celebrating Harmony Day, it is not truly harmonious if we do not make active efforts in supporting First Nations people every day or recognising that casual racism affects the lives of Migrants and Australians every day. We need to ensure that we are celebrating a Harmony Day that is kind to everyone, full of opportunities and security for everyone, and one that recognises that to make a societal change, we need to start with the community and company around us. If you see instances of discrimination, step up, stand up and report it.

Sugar coating these experiences of casual racism, micro-aggressions, and threats to the physical, emotional, and social safety of First Nations and People of Colour will prevent us from eliminating institutional and social barriers that inequitably affects all of us. We strongly support the work of organisations such as Diversity Council of Australia and call for a stronger recognition of the Uluru Statement from the Heart to take a right step towards working on elimination of racial discrimination as is the theme of 2022 - "Voices for Action Against Racism".

We encourage you to keep an open mind, to be curious but with kindness, to expand your thinking but without bias, and to treat each other with dignity and respect on the International Day of Elimination of Racial Discrimination. If you would like any additional support and would like to be involved in the wide opportunities available at UNSW (University of New South Wales), join the UNSW International Students Collective or UNSW People of Colour Collective today.

As the Student Representative Council, we strongly support the Anti-Racism Policy (<https://www.edi.unsw.edu.au/.../anti.../anti-racism-policy>) at UNSW and remind all of you that we have a zero-tolerance policy at UNSW. Furthermore, the Arc Safer Spaces policy is in place to ensure that all of you have a positive and safe experience at UNSW free from any discrimination.

To celebrate the rich diversity at UNSW, we encourage you to check out the Where Are You From? exhibition. This is a collaboration between the Division of Equity Diversity & Inclusion

and the UNSW Library, celebrating the diversity of our university community and it will be open until the 12th of May. Tickets for the UNSW launch can be found here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/.../where-are-you-from...>

If you would like to report any incidents, you can use the grievance and reporting portal to report your own experience or as a by stander here: <https://www.edi.unsw.edu.au/conduct.../complaints-unsw>

You can also seek help externally by reporting to Anti-discrimination NSW here:

<https://antidiscrimination.nsw.gov.au/>

For any other queries and additional support, you can contact us via [src.president@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:src.president@arc.unsw.edu.au)

Kind regards,

Nayonika Bhattacharya,

UNSW SRC President, 2022