



HOBSONS BAY INTERFAITH NETWORK

Say 'No to Racism', and Say 'Yes to Loving Kindness': Statement of Support from the Hobsons Bay Interfaith Network for the 'Say No to Racism' Campaign

Racism exists in individual's actions and attitudes, in belief and values systems, institutions and structures of power. Racism can be overt or implied, and include barriers that prevent people from enjoying dignity and equality because of their perceived race.

The brutal death of George Floyd and many other Black American people and the very high rate of incarceration of Aboriginal people in Australia have come to the forefront of our collective consciousness recently.

Here in Australia, people are seeking practical and meaningful action that will produce an end to the continuing tragedy of Aboriginal deaths in custody. People are saying 'No to Racism.'

The COVID-19 crisis has seen a surge in racism towards Australians perceived as Asian, experienced and witnessed by many, including our community here in Hobsons Bay.

Everyone is welcome in Hobsons Bay which is a multicultural and multi-faith community.

The Hobsons Bay Interfaith Network draws people together from a wide range of faith traditions – Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Bahá'í and more. Despite our diverse belief systems, we all value kindness, love, dignity and equality. Our purpose is to join with each other, and the wider community, in dialogues about beliefs, values and ideas, as well as dialogues of action, to address misunderstandings and injustices, and promote respect and reconciliation.

What we have discerned through building these interfaith and intercultural dialogues is that we can and must, imagine and enact alternative futures apart from those bound up with racism and xenophobia. Through interfaith dialogue and kindness we build understandings of each other, learn from each other and examine how our systems and institutions can support human rights - we reduce racism.

We recognise the role our spirituality and our faith institutions have in fostering a welcoming, kind, loving and equitable community. We should, can and will contribute collaboratively to creating an interfaith and intercultural community, country and world, one in which all people's human rights are respected and protected by our love and respect for each other.

It is our prayer, as an Interfaith Network, that our local and national community in Australia, and our global community, will make a clear commitment to ensure no more racist violence is perpetrated against anyone anywhere. Join us in interfaith and intercultural dialogue and action. Join us in rejecting racism and call on everyone to **'Say No to Racism, and Say Yes to Loving Kindness'**.

Shalom

Salam

Metta

Love One Another

Love Humankind