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**Implementation of General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/205**

**Contribution of the Australian Human Rights Commission**

**to Secretary-General’s report preparation on implementation**

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) provides the following information to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in relation to the implementation of General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/205.

In October 2022, the Australian Government committed $AUD7.5 million over a 4 year period (2020–26) to the AHRC for a National Anti-Racism Strategy (Strategy). The AHRC is undertaking two major streams of work under the Strategy – namely national public awareness and education initiatives and a program of work to progress a national anti-racism framework.

**National action plan against racism**

In response to growing calls from organisations, businesses and communities across Australia, for action to address key gaps in national responses to racism, the AHRC called for a National Anti-Racism Framework (Framework) in March 2021.

The aim was to develop a Framework that defines a coordinated approach to tackling racism, and guides actions on anti-racism and racial equality in Australia.

A Concept Paper began discussions around a Framework as a long-term central reference point to guide the actions of government, non-government organisations, business, educators, health professionals, police and other justice authorities, civil society and the community.

In December 2022, a National Anti-Racism Framework Scoping Report was released in which the AHRC suggested initiatives to progress a Framework. In preparing this report, the AHRC conducted more than 100 consultations with over 300 organisations, participated in 10 community-led consultations and received more than 170 written submissions on this initiative. Further detail of the scoping findings and access to the report can be found [here](https://humanrights.gov.au/about/news/media-releases/new-report-lays-foundations-australias-first-national-anti-racism).

National action to eradicate racism, including developing a National Anti-Racism Framework, was also one of the recommendations of the AHRC’s 2020 *Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women’s Voices): Securing Our Voice, Securing Our Future Report*. The report is an analysis of online submissions, survey responses, and 106 meetings and consultations with over 2,000 Indigenous women and girls across Australia. The Report made seven overarching recommendations setting out key structural reforms to address cross-cutting systemic issues of marginalisation, trauma and intersectional discrimination, and to fundamentally shift how Australian Governments engage with First Nations women and girls.

*The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Implementation Framework* was released in February 2022. Within the Framework’s four thematic areas – leadership; law, land and cultural rights; healing approaches; and economic empowerment – actions have been categorised into nine major priority areas. Corresponding to each action are the elements of systems change that will allow the major priorities to be realised.

The AHRC will host the *Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit* in May 2023, the Summit will bring together over 200 First Nations women delegates from across Australia, in the first ever national gathering of its kind. The Summit is a once-in-a-generation platform for agreement-making where First Nations women will come together, raise their collective voice, and determine the way ahead. It will be a space for showcasing and decision-making with multisectoral stakeholders from governments, academia, business and more. At the Summit, serious commitments and lasting relationships will be formed across sectors to invest in the vital work identified through *Wiyi Yani U Thangani*, guaranteeing it is made real and drives systemic change over the long-term.

The [project page](https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice/projects/wiyi-yani-u-thangani-womens) provides more detail and access to relevant documents.

The AHRC notes both these reports include content regarding promising practices, initiatives and challenges, as well as highlighting the importance of the principle of intersectionalityin guiding the design and development of a national anti-racism framework.

**Data collection**

A national data collection system, which can operate to measure the prevalence, nature and impacts of racism in Australia and provide a more detailed and nuanced picture of the diverse make-up of the Australian population, has been identified as a key priority by the Framework project. Under the Strategy, the AHRC will progress work to audit existing data in Australia related to racism and racial equity and investigate establishing mechanisms to collect data, with focuses on collecting longitudinal, qualitative, and quantitative data that accurately capture the intersectional experiences of communities, and accounting for racial biases in emerging technologies while respecting principles of data sovereignty.

**Hate crime**

The need for stronger media regulation and standards, including digital media, and in relation to online hate, was identified as another priority issue in the AHRC’s National Anti-Racism Framework Scoping Report. As part of the Strategy, the AHRC will be progressing initiatives to advocate for atrocity-prevention and harms-based responses, and meaningful and timely remedies for hate crimes including that they be community-designed or led by significant community input.

**Undertaking education and awareness-raising measures**

In July 2022, the AHRC rolled out its updated *Racism. It Stops With Me* public awareness and education campaign. The campaign aims to:

* engage audiences beyond those already engaged in active anti-racism
* update and reposition the campaign with existing supporters and partners, expanding the campaign’s focus to include covert forms of racism, such as institutional and systemic racism, in addition to the current focus on interpersonal racism
* provide access to resources that promote education and action on racism.

The campaign has audio, visual and online elements. A public service announcement, an updated website and a Workplace Cultural Diversity Tool are components of the campaign.

The public awareness campaign asks audiences to reflect on how racism operates at an individual and institutional level. This includes a public service announcement, broadcast on national television and across a range of digital platforms, a social media campaign and a new campaign website, providing resources and information to support individual and collective action. The new website features a Resource Hub that connects campaign supporters with organisations and resources that can facilitate deeper learning and action.

Under the auspices of the Strategy, the campaign is also developing resources for schools, to guide conversations about racism and anti-racism, to challenge dis- and misinformation that can lead to racial discrimination and hatred, and creating customised human rights information relevant to the Referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Visit the [campaign page](https://itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au/documentary/let-s-talk-race-guide) to learn more about the campaign.

Please do not hesitate to be in contact with the AHRC if any further information is required.