



Call it Out: First Nations Racism Register

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Jumbunna Institute for Education and Research (Jumbunna Research), in collaboration with the National Justice Project (NJP), have developed '[Call it Out](#)', an online register to record all forms and levels of racism and discrimination experienced by First Nations Peoples. *Call it Out* was officially launched on 21 March 2022 to coincide with the [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#).

Call it Out provides a simple and secure online reporting mechanism without the usual barriers often inhibiting reports of racism. *Call it Out* is intended to provide First Nations Peoples who have experienced racial discrimination, including systemic racism, or witnesses to such racism with the opportunity to share their experiences.

By using *Call it Out* to 'call out' racism, First Nations Peoples and First Nations allies will help to tell the true story of racism in this country. Collecting, analysing and reporting on First Nations People's experiences of racism will enable us and community leaders to continue the fight against racism and protect future generations.

PROJECT IMPACT

Call it Out will generate evidence to assist First Nations leaders, organisations and advocates in garnering support and resources to develop tools and strategies to address racism and discrimination. *Call it Out* will also collect suggestions for reform to inform recommendations for structural and cultural change.

Call it Out will provide an independent, Indigenous-controlled platform, distinct from traditional complaints and legal processes. Reporting incidents to police or complaints bodies is restricted to overt acts of racism narrowly interpreted by ineffective anti-discrimination laws. Complainants are forced to have direct engagement with individuals, institutions and systems that have historically and continue to create and reinforce an imbalance of power resulting in the continuing oppression of First Nations Peoples.

Call it Out is an ongoing, respondent generated initiative with a national focus. *Call it Out* provides the opportunity to identify patterns of racism at institutional and systemic levels and inform evidence-based advocacy and campaigning initiatives that proactively strive towards eliminating racism and discrimination towards First Nations Peoples in this country.

Racism and discrimination take many forms: including direct and indirect, interpersonal and institutional. Unlike other mechanisms that are limited by distinct parameters, *Call it Out* is designed to be unencumbered by predetermined restrictions, to allow respondents the freedom to share any experiences they consider relevant to shape a comprehensive representation of First Nations Peoples' lived experiences of racism and discrimination.

The reports made to the register will be collected by Jumbunna Research and analysed to inform evidence-based publicly available annual reports outlining the frequency and nature of reported incidents of racism towards First Nations Peoples in Australia and provide evidence to assist First Nations organisations and advocates to continue the fight against racism.

Reports made to *Call it Out* will enable Jumbunna Research to:

- Develop a comprehensive annual report on racism and discrimination experienced by First Nations Peoples
- Assist First Nations organisations and leaders to identify problem areas and to respond to racism and discrimination
- Explore measures to counter racism and discrimination against First Nations Peoples
- Educate the community about racism and discrimination against First Nations Peoples
- Support appropriate investment in Indigenous-led anti-racism activities and initiatives



- Analyse the actions and demographics of perpetrators to better understand how to counter the behaviours of individuals and characteristics of systems that require reform
- Measure patterns in the circumstances, nature, frequency and geographic spread of discrimination and racism.

PROJECT RATIONALE & OBJECTIVES

Racism is an endemic problem in Australia that disproportionately impacts First Nations Peoples. The racism and discrimination that First Nations Peoples face today is directly attributable to a colonial legacy of discriminatory and brutal policies and practices – including dispossession, the forced removal of children, forced servitude, massacres and segregation. These policies and practices provided the basis for the racial prejudices and stereotypes that currently operate across our justice, health, political, economic and social systems. However, the true nature and extent of the racism and discrimination First Nations Peoples encounter on a daily basis remains largely unseen and unheard. When it is, concerted effort is made to downplaying or dismissing its prevalence, its severity and its impact. By maintaining misconceptions about the power of race and racism in this country, we legitimise the actions (or inaction) of governments and institutions in the continued mistreatment and dispossession of First Nations Peoples.

By establishing a central point for people to report all forms of racism, the objectives of *Call it Out* include:

- Establishing a website for the purpose of reporting racism and discrimination against First Nations Peoples
- Partnering with communities and representative organisations
- Collecting and analysing reports on racism and discrimination against First Nations Peoples
- Reporting on findings to educate others and to drive change through strengthening legislative and policy responses, advocacy, community engagement, and
- Providing an evidence-base to drive investment in effective, Indigenous-led anti-racism projects and activities.

NEXT STEPS

Our focus now is building and maintaining momentum and growing awareness in the community.

We will continually enhance the website in response to feedback from the community and the many opportunities for expanding the project's utility will be considered in time.

We will partner with communities and their representative organisations to call out and address racism.

Jumbunna Research will release its first *Call it Out* annual report in 2023.

ABOUT US

[Jumbunna Research](#) is based at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and with communities throughout Australia. Jumbunna Research prides itself on high quality and socially engaged research and advocacy driven by the Indigenous communities it serves, with a vision to promote, support and embody the exercise and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sovereignty and Self-Determination. Anti-racism research, policy development and advocacy has been a core part of the Institute's work including in areas such as employment, sport, child protection, environmental protection, deaths in custody and civil and criminal law.

The [National Justice Project](#) is a not-for-profit human rights legal service that works to eradicate systemic discrimination. Our mission is to fearlessly fight discrimination for justice, fairness and inclusivity. Together with our clients and partners we work to create systemic change and amplify the voices of communities harmed by government inaction and discrimination. The NJP is co-located with Jumbunna Research at UTS.