

RACE UNITY

SPEECH AWARDS



RACE UNITY

HUI

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The Race Unity Speech Awards and Hui are held each year to empower young people advance the conversation about race relations in Aotearoa.



**A PLACE TO
BE HEARD**

The Race Unity 2019 Theme is:

**“Speaking for Justice, Working
For Unity”**

**A PLACE TO
SPEAK**



'Race'

'Justice'

'Unity'

**A PLACE TO
LISTEN**



'Race': What does it mean and why talk about it?

- Race has a meaning and history. It is used in society to identify people based on their appearance. There is no scientific basis to justify this, but the idea of race still shapes society today.
- 'Race' is about how people see us and categorise us. This is different to ethnicity, which is about what cultural or national groups we identify with.
- Your outward appearance can affect how people and institutions engage with you.
- Racism can be defined as prejudice or discrimination based on racial identity.



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Two Forms of Racism: Institutional and Individual

- When we talk about racism, our first thought is often of individual racism: racism between individuals. Think of some examples of this.
- There is another important kind of racism to talk about: institutional racism. What do you think this might mean?
- Clarity about these two forms of racism help us to more clearly describe and take action on issues of race and racism.



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Two Forms of Racism

Individual Racism: Race-based prejudice, discrimination, intolerance or bias between people.

Institutional Racism: Societal patterns that impose oppressive or negative conditions on groups on the basis of race or ethnicity. For example, oppression may come from the government, schools or the court.

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LISTEN



Perspectives and Experiences of Racism in Aotearoa

- Click on the image below for a link to a range of personal stories about racism in New Zealand.
- In small groups, choose one each to read thoroughly.
- We will finish by sharing a summary of the story we read in small groups.



WE ARE AN OPEN AND WELCOMING COUNTRY THAT CELEBRATES DIVERSITY. WHEN WE SEE RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION WE NEED TO STAND UP AND SAY THAT'S NOT US. STAND UP TO RACISM — THAT'S US.



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Speaking for Justice

- In pairs, draw what you think justice means.
- What common themes can we identify throughout our drawings?
- Let's create a shared definition of justice:

Justice is:



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“I realised there are so many different ethnic groups with very different histories, but a shared history of otherness, unjust treatment and oppression. This open my eyes to the difference realities of people in NZ.”

“It’s simple but often overlooked that... to achieve justice we have to be conscious of the values and norms of those we are engaging with.”

- The above quotes are from the Race Unity Hui 2018. What connections do they suggest between race and justice?
- What race-based or related injustices exist in New Zealand society? Consider both individual and institutional forms.

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Working for Unity

- In pairs, draw what you think unity means or looks like.

- What common themes are there in our drawings?



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“Unity and inclusiveness can sometimes mean ‘everyone needs to become more like me - become good kiwis.’.”

“[Race] Unity would mean being free to embrace cultural and racial differences but not being forced to assimilate to a mainstream culture.”

“Understanding principles and cultural norms can make the process [creating unity] closer to home. It is hard to be on the same page, to achieve justice, if norms and assumptions are alien to the other party. It’s simple but often overlooked...”

- The above quotes are from the Race Unity Hui 2018. What are the two different ideas of ‘unity’ in the first quotes?
- What might it look like if we tried to create unity without justice, or justice without unity?



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Race Unity Hui 2018: Youth Statement

RACE, UNITY AND JUSTICE

Statement by youth and supporters who attended Race Unity Conference 2018

Racial prejudice is in our schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces. We are not satisfied with statements that New Zealand is 'less racist' than other countries. While some experience New Zealand as a friendly and inclusive society, too many of us experience New Zealand as an unwelcoming and exclusive place. What experience we have tends to depend on the colour of our skin or our accent, among other matters. Racial prejudice has influenced our institutions, our laws, and even the physical layout of our cities. The fact that Pākehā and people of colour are predominantly in different neighbourhoods and suburbs helps reinforce existing divisions in society, and create unconscious biases that shape the way we think and act.

If we are to eradicate racial prejudice, we need to learn the history of Aotearoa. We need to learn about the injustices that were perpetrated, and that still limit our success and progress. We need to learn about the efforts that have been made to create justice, peace and unity – the non-violent resistance of Te Whiri and Tūhū at Parihaka, for example. We need to learn about the policies of assimilation that our government implemented, and the misleading self-image of harmony and tolerance that has allowed us to forget the wrongs of the past. We need to acknowledge and honour this past, if we are to move forward together.

True unity cannot be achieved without justice. Justice requires balance – distributing resources in ways that allow all parts of our society to flourish. At times this means that we have to prioritise equity, rather than equality. If we want our society to flourish and be unified, we would do well to support initiatives that aim to restore the balance of our society, including those that reallocate economic, political and other resources.

Many institutional changes will be required if race relations are to become just and equitable. If our schools are to teach our history, we need not only curriculum change but education for our educators. If our criminal justice system is to be truly just, it will need to change to reflect the ethics and values that New Zealanders value. Institutional change depends on making space for minority voices, and youth voices, to be heard and represented whenever power is exercised. Finally, we need to consider together how our constitution could be transformed to fully reflect the *Tiriti o Waitangi* in our institutions of government.

To achieve unity, we will also need to transform the culture of our communities. We will need to create both physical and social spaces where people of different backgrounds can meet, consult and befriended one another. We will need to make the celebration of different cultures a frequent feature of community life that touches all New Zealanders. And as our diversity becomes increasingly rich, we will need to continue discussing what our common identity as New Zealanders can, and should, become.

As individuals, we must be persistent, patient and understanding. We need to learn both to challenge racism when we see it, and to examine our own thoughts and behaviour. We must strive to be loving, forgiving, and we must be willing to learn. We can work towards overcoming our biases by befriending people who do not look like us or sound like us. This can start in our families, from the earliest years of our lives.

The statement summarises the views shared at Race Unity Conference 2018, held in Te Māhurehure Marae, Auckland on Saturday 13 May 2018. The Conference brought together around 60 youth and supporters to consult together about how race relations in New Zealand can become more unified and just. For further information, email aidan.macleod@bahai.org.nz.

1. Do any of the points in the youth statement stand out to you?
2. Are you unsure about any of the ideas or points made in the statement? Why?
3. What does the statement suggest about the relevance of 'justice' and 'unity'?
4. Is racism a major issue in NZ? What more could be done about it?

Link: [Youth Statement on Race, Unity and Justice](#)

A PLACE TO
SPEAK



Give Nothing to Racism: 2018 Human Rights Commission Campaign

Racism starts small. Sometimes it lives in everyday actions and comments that we laugh off, nod in agreement to, excuse, and therefore accept. But we don't have to. We can stop casual racism from growing into something [more extreme](#). We can give it no encouragement. No respect. No place. No power. We can give it nothing.

<https://givenothing.co.nz/>

**Give
no[🤪]thing
to racism**

Race Unity 2019 - Speeches and Hui

More and more New Zealanders are recognising that if we want a harmonious and unified Aotearoa, we all have speak out and work to address racial prejudice and injustice. But in a world that is becoming increasingly polarised, how do we make sure our efforts create real unity?

**A PLACE TO
SPEAK**



The Big Questions for Race Unity 2019

1. How can we give nothing to racism while also giving people a chance to overcome their own prejudice?
2. What sort of words and actions help bring people of different ethnicities and worldviews together?
3. Are there any responsibilities that come with the right to free speech?
4. What do our institutions (such as government, local councils and schools) need to do to bring about justice and fairness for people of all races?
5. What do we need to do as a community to become more unified and inclusive?

Drawing on Whakataukī

You also need to incorporate at least one of the following quotations / whakataukī into your speech:

a) The light of men is Justice. Quench it not with the contrary winds of oppression and tyranny. The purpose of justice is the appearance of unity among men. - Baha'u'llah

b) He aha te kai a te rangatira? He kōrero / What is the food of a chief? It is speech.
He aha te tohu a te rangatira? He manaaki. / What is the sign of a chief? It is generosity.
He aha te mahi a te rangatira? He whakatira te iwi / What is the work of a chief? To unite the people.

c) A relevant quotation or proverb from your own faith or cultural tradition

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