

10th July 2019

Dear

## Confronting racism with justice and unity – a roundtable discussion

You are cordially invited to participate in a discussion of young people's views on race relations in Aotearoa. The discussion will be based on the Youth Statement 'Confronting racism with justice and unity', representing the views of over 150 young people from around New Zealand.

The roundtable discussion will be held at [venue] from **12:00pm to 2:00pm** on **Friday 2 August 2019**. We will begin with a light lunch (12:00pm) and start the discussion at 12:30pm.

Please RSVP by Friday 25 July by emailing [admin@spiritofwork.org.nz](mailto:admin@spiritofwork.org.nz)

If you have any questions about the discussion, feel free to contact Aidan MacLeod from the NZ Baha'i Office of Public Affairs (Ph: 027 664 7144, email: [aidan.macleod@bahai.org.nz](mailto:aidan.macleod@bahai.org.nz)).

### More about the discussion

The purpose of this discussion is to provide an open space for representatives of government, civil society, academia, business and the media to consider young people's views on race relations. It will also be attended by young people who contributed to the Statement. 'Chatham House Rules' will apply – we can report what we hear at the discussion, but not attribute it to any individual or organisation.

Here are some of the questions to be explored at the discussion:

- › What can we do, individually and collectively, to eradicate racism and structural bias from the institutions we serve and work for?
- › Young people are calling for more social spaces where we can have open discussions about race and culture. How do we create these spaces, and give young people a role in shaping them?
- › The Statement includes 10 recommendations for changing our education system so that it helps eradicate racism, instead of reinforcing it. How might we support or implement these recommendations?
- › What are we personally doing to overcome our own racial prejudice, and to help others do the same? How might we support young people in our life to confront racial prejudice safely and effectively?

The discussion is hosted by members of the New Zealand Baha'i Community, a religious community concerned with the eradication of prejudice and the establishment of the oneness of humanity.

About the Youth Statement on race relations 'Confronting racism with justice and unity'

The Youth Statement 'Confronting racism with justice and unity' represents the views of 150 young people who attended the 2019 Race Unity Hui – a series of conferences for young people to express their views on race relations in Aotearoa, held between March and May 2019.

The 2019 Race Unity Hui were organised by the New Zealand Baha'i Community and Multicultural NZ, with sponsorship from the Human Rights Commission, NZ Police, Studio Marque and the Hedi Moani Charitable Trust.

Yours sincerely

**Aidan MacLeod**

Office of Public Affairs – New Zealand Baha'i Community  
027-664-7144

**KA HURI TE AO, I TE RANGATAHI  
HE TAI RERE KI UTA**  
Youth can change the world

**WHIRIA NGĀ TĀNGATA**  
Weaving people together