

STATEMENT FROM AFRIAUS iLEAC: INSPIRE LEAD EDUCATE ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE INC *'Nothing about the First Nations People is without the First Nations People'*

AfriAus iLEAC: Inspire Lead Educate Advocate for Change Incorporated (AfriAus iLEAC or AAI) acknowledges the First Nations People as the true custodians of the land across the states and territories in Australia. It pays its respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

AfriAus iLEAC supports a cause that encourages people to have a say. It believes that everyone's input is valuable and can contribute to positive change. AfriAus iLEAC finds no reason to justify itself for not supporting the First Nations People to have a say in matters that impact their lives and communities.

In respecting this, AfriAus iLEAC believes *nothing about the First Nations People is without the First Nations People*. It is indispensable humane effort to foster a society where everyone's voice matters.

The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* represents an important milestone in the journey towards reconciliation and recognition of Indigenous Australians. The call for a First Nations Voice to Parliament reflects the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for meaningful participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives. As an organization committed to inclusivity, diversity, respect and social justice, [AfriAus iLEAC](#) submitted its logo to join the 'YES' Referendum Campaign to show support for the 'Voice' of the First Nations People.

AfriAus iLEAC chose to do so as it falls in line with its following objectives and values:

1. *Promoting Social Justice:*

AfriAus iLEAC's objective includes promoting social justice and advocating for the rights of marginalized cohorts, communities. Supporting the 'Voice' referendum aligns with this objective by recognizing and amplifying the historically marginalized and oppressed voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. By submitting its logo, AfriAus iLEAC sent a powerful message that it stands in solidarity with the First Nations People in their struggle for equality and self-determination.

2. *Fostering Inclusivity and Diversity:*

AfriAus iLEAC aims to foster inclusivity and celebrate the diversity of cultures and communities within Australia. The First Nations People have a rich cultural heritage, and acknowledging their unique perspectives and experiences is crucial for building a more inclusive society. Supporting the 'Voice' referendum demonstrates AfriAus iLEAC's commitment to embracing and uplifting the voices of all Australians, irrespective of their cultural backgrounds.

3. *Strengthening Indigenous Self-Determination:*

The 'Voice' referendum seeks to recognize the First Nations People in the Constitution and establish mechanisms for their participation in decision-making processes. By supporting the 'YES' Voice, AfriAus iLEAC contributes to the broader goal of empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and strengthening their right to self-determination. This aligns with AfriAus iLEAC's objective of promoting autonomy and agency among marginalized communities.

4. *Reflecting Reconciliation Efforts:*

The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* represents a significant step towards reconciliation between the First Nations People and non-Indigenous Australians. By supporting the 'Voice' referendum, AfriAus iLEAC actively participates in driving the reconciliation agenda forward. It signals its commitment to acknowledging past injustices, promoting healing, and fostering a more harmonious and equitable society.

5. *Setting a Positive Example:*

As a prominent organization, AfriAus iLEAC could set a positive example for other groups and individuals. By publicly supporting the 'Voice' referendum, it encourages others to engage with the issue, educate themselves, and take a stance. This act of leadership can inspire a broader movement of support and contribute to the momentum needed to achieve constitutional recognition for the First Nations People.

6. *Collaborative Efforts:*

It shows that AfriAus iLEAC is actively engaging in collaborative efforts to support the cause. It highlights a commitment to working together with the First Nations People's communities, organizations, and individuals who are striving for constitutional recognition. This collaborative approach can help build alliances and strengthen the movement for the 'YES' vote.

7. *Influence on Decision-Making:*

It can add weight to the collective voice advocating for constitutional recognition. It can help shape public opinion, influence decision-makers, and encourage politicians to consider and prioritize the inclusion of the 'Voice' of the First Peoples in the Australian Government Constitution. The visibility of our logo can serve as a visual reminder of the widespread support for this important cause.

Overall, we urge you to act sensibly by voting 'YES' as a positive vote outcome can contribute to the ongoing efforts towards constitutional recognition of the 'Voice' of the First Peoples in Australia, fostering greater representation, understanding, and equality for indigenous communities. This will reflect our solidarity, commitment, and own voice in championing part of our core values of 'Closing the Gap/ Equality' and inclusiveness. Not only will the First Nations people's needs be better understood but also of the multicultural community, at large, from shared synergies. The First Nations People need our support. It has been a long awaited journey; we are with them in every step of the way for them to gain their full independence.

Again, *nothing about the First Nations People is without the First Nations People. Together we can go far.*

Contact AfriAus iLEAC Principal Secretary, 0407 811 710, secretary@afriausileac.org

Signed by



Rebecca Mphande
AfriAus iLEAC President & Co-founding Director
0415 964 113