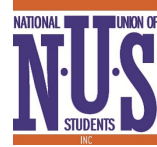


**Report from the National Ethno-Cultural Officer:**

**Michael Bezuidenhout NX**



Imikhonzo kanye ubunye.

## **‘Racism is...’ photo campaign**

I have finalised the designs of all the materials (after a number of late nights mind-numbingly moving text boxes left and right by an insignificant amount of pixels) and sent them out to the contact list I have developed which so far includes over 150 interested parties.

The photo campaign will commence at O-weeks from the 16<sup>th</sup> February and continue throughout the year. It will consist of a Facebook page that will display the messages of students who wish to convey their experiences of racism and what it means to them. The messages will be a mixture of graphic quotes, students holding signs and any other creative expression students wish to share. There is also a Twitter component encouraging students to post their pictures and stories with the hashtag #racismis.

The campaign aims to provide Ethno-cultural students with a platform to express what racism and discrimination means to them from their personal experience. The campaign acts as a public platform to spread awareness of experiences of racism and discrimination in a more personal and engaging way in order to ensure that the people who experience racism are the ones who define it and lead the conversations and campaigns to tackle it, allowing others to be informed and active allies.

The campaign also hopes to foster a better dialogue between students in order to encourage more sensitivity and the celebration – rather than misunderstanding - of diversity.

You can check out the materials (any maybe even print some off for your campus!) by visiting [www.racismis.com](http://www.racismis.com)

## **Multicultural Calendar**

The many diverse diaspora and community groups in Australia celebrate a range of national, religious and cultural days and festivals or significance which are crucial to the maintenance of their culture and the formation of their identity. It is important that the university environment is one which supports the observance of these significant days.

The creation of a multicultural calendar as a publically available google calendar will allow student organisations to plan celebratory events, provide extra support, and be aware of particular sensitivities on certain days.

While there has been a few delays which I was hoping to avoid, I am looking forward to sending out the link to the google calendar in the third week of February. It is looking like there will be around 400 entries when completed each with a description of at least a sentence but on average about a paragraph. I am still investigating the feasibility of a hardcopy version of the calendar taking into consideration the cost, production time and benefit they might add compared to the relatively inexpensive online version.

