

June 2020

**The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP**

Prime Minister of Australia

**The Hon. Anthony Albanese, MP**

Leader of the Opposition

Dear Prime Minister & Leader of the Opposition,

## IT'S TIME FOR REAL ACTION AGAINST RACISM

We applaud you both for your recent remarks condemning racism in Australia and call on you, as political leaders, to turn great words into great actions. This is both a crisis and an opportunity.

Like you, and the tens of thousands who took action this past weekend, we are deeply concerned about the rise in racist abuse and attacks in Australia and the institutions that perpetuate these practices. This worrying trend threatens the social cohesion of our successful multicultural society.

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, we witnessed a horrifying increase in hostile, discriminatory and abusive behaviour, including physical violence, towards Asian-Australians, as documented by the Race Discrimination Commissioner. This is far from unique to Australia, of course.

There will always be people who will find excuses for racism, whether directed at Asian-Australians or Indigenous Australians, African-Australians, Muslims, Jews, or people of other religions and cultural minorities.

As a nation, we need to come up with a strategy both broad and specific to combat racism wherever it is manifest, whether in policing, health care, housing, education or employment. Recent events are both a wake-up call and an opportunity.

We urge you to establish a bipartisan National Anti-Racism Strategy, designed to draw on existing experience and expertise to halt the rising tide of hate and promote social cohesion at all levels of Australian society. Social and religious organisations, businesses, workers and communities all have a role to play.

We are putting up our hands. We are ready and willing to assist in building this strategy. With your bipartisan leadership, we are confident in our collective ability to create a blueprint for change and a positive force for tackling racism now and for future generations of Australians.

Yours sincerely,



Join our call for a bipartisan commitment to an anti-racism strategy at [amnesty.org.au/anti-racism](https://www.amnesty.org.au/anti-racism)