



MEDIA RELEASE

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Vinnies joins call for bipartisan anti-racism strategy

The St Vincent de Paul Society's National Council President, Claire Victory, has supported calls for a bipartisan National Anti-Racism Strategy to address increasing incidents of racism in Australia.

As co-signatory to an open letter to the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison and the Leader of the Opposition, Anthony Albanese the Society has joined with 23 other organisations urging our political leaders to create this urgently needed blueprint for change.

'The letter calls for actions which strengthen social cohesion in our multicultural society in the face of an increase in hostile, discriminatory and abusive behaviour towards Asian-Australians since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic,' Ms Victory said.

'Specifically, the letter calls for a bipartisan National Anti-Racism Strategy to draw on existing experience and expertise to promote social cohesion at all levels of Australian society.

'We are mindful of the national leadership the Prime Minister has shown in the face of the bushfire, drought and COVID-19 emergencies.

'We encourage him to continue his vision for uniting all Australians by leading the development of a national strategy to address discrimination directed at all peoples including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, African-Australians, Islamic and Jewish Australians and people of other religions and cultural minorities.

'We acknowledge the Opposition Leader's commitment to the strategy and to a new national anti-racism campaign which would send a message of zero tolerance of racism in Australia

'We welcome this evidence of bipartisan support.

'We urge our parliaments to address this issue as a matter of urgency and we reiterate our commitment to help build this essential strategy,' Ms Victory said.

A copy of the letter is available [here](#).

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 conferences located in individual parishes across the country.

MEDIA CONTACT: Judith Tokley 0408 824 306 / 0400 845 492 or media@svdp.org.au