

PLEDGE TO VOTE YES TO THE VOICE

Join us in supporting justice for First Nations peoples by pledging to vote yes in the upcoming referendum.

ACTIVISM TOOLKIT:



Why vote 'YES'



FAQ



How to get involved



Resources



TAKE ACTION NOW >>



A message from Rodney...

Rodney Dillon here. I'm a proud Palawa man from Tasmania. I have worked at Amnesty for the past sixteen years.

My great-great Grandmother Smith was the daughter of Tanganooturra, from Cape Portland in Tasmania. Tanganooturra was forcibly removed to Wybalenna on Flinders Island. She survived the invasion, but like the other Aboriginal children at Wybalenna, Grandmother Smith was taken from her mother.

Fighting for justice for my people is something I just have to do until things change for the better.

In my lifetime I want to see our young ones living in happy, healthy communities, coming out of school educated and getting good jobs. I want to play a part in putting them on the road to becoming community leaders.

I think that non-Indigenous peoples' support and influence can be really really important to make positive change. We need people who are willing to understand the past so our families have got a safer future. The people who put the wall up, I can understand why it's there, but the people who pull it down - they're the ones we need.

But remember to take care of yourselves so as to minimise trauma, anxiety and turmoil, and to avoid burnout. We have a strong team behind us, so you don't have to go it alone! Together we will win this.

As well as creating safe spaces, we will be campaigning through partnerships, workshops, door-knocking and more! If you want to get involved, you can find your local Amnesty Action Group here.

I hope you will join us in standing up for equality, dignity and voting YES for this referendum.

Rodney Dillon
Indigenous Rights Advisor



WHY VOTE 'YES'

The Voice to Parliament will be an advisory body of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives. Their job will be to give independent advice to the Government and Parliament on matters relating to First Nations people.

Put simply, a Voice to Parliament gives Indigenous Peoples a seat at the table when decisions are being made that specifically affect them.

So what will it do?

Better quality information

A Voice will mean the Government will have better quality information about First Nations communities and issues, delivered directly from the communities themselves.

Better laws and policies

Information from communities will result in better quality laws and policies and targeted investment that will make a real difference in the lives of First Nations people.

Better outcomes for children, families and communities

This means practical and realistic solutions that will close the gaps in areas like health, employment and education.

Better future for all Australians

All of us deserve to live in a country where everyone, regardless of their background, has the same opportunity to thrive and live long and happy lives.

"When we can have a say in what affects us - I think that it's respectful. It's culturally appropriate. And we can get outcomes."

- Rodney Dillon, Indigenous Rights Advisor.



¹ Photographer: MJ Hilhorst



What we're doing at Amnesty

Led by First Nations staff, Amnesty is campaigning to support the yes case in the referendum. Through on-the-ground activism, community organising and digital engagement we aim to promote the Voice to Parliament as a vital step towards recognising the sovereignty, self-determination, and agency of Indigenous peoples. Securing widespread public support will help deliver a successful 'Yes' result and contribute to a more just, inclusive, and respectful nation.

What YOU can do...

What steps to take as an activist at Amnesty

This is a LIVE Google Doc and will be updated ongoingly to keep activists up-to-date with actions.

Step 1: Understand 'why to vote yes'.

As well as the information above and our [website](#), please see the resources for the campaign below.

Please see the recorded webinar held on Wednesday, 30 August 2023, for Amnesty Supporters [here](#) discussing The Voice to Parliament. Read the [Uluru Statement from the Heart here](#).

Hear what our Indigenous Rights Campaigner, Kacey Teerman, and Indigenous Rights Adviser, Rodney Dillon, have to say [here](#).

Step 2: Take the pledge to vote yes with Amnesty.

Make an impact and take the [Pledge to vote Yes to the Voice](#). The Voice will mean governments listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' expert advice on how to create a better future for their communities. But Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples cannot win this referendum alone; to change the course of our shared history, we must work together for a better future. Will you make a pledge to vote 'YES' in the upcoming referendum?

Upcoming webinars TBC (make sure you pledge to vote to be sent an invite):

- The Organising Team will host an online huddle on 19 September 23 at 7 pm AEST for Core & Committed activists in September to focus on the Voice along with other updates. [Register here](#).
- "How to have conversations about the Referendum with family and friends. A combination of a presentation from First Nations speakers and a practical exercise" in October 2023.
- National Youth Picnic, 7th of October 2023

If you haven't already, connect with fellow Amnesty Activists working on the Voice by joining the Slack channel [#activist-voice-campaign](#)

Step 3: Have conversations with friends, family, colleagues and fellow activists.

As an ally, one of the most powerful things you can do is have conversations with friends, family and your

neighbours. By speaking out, you can give others an opportunity to learn and reflect. You're also standing up for what you believe in - empathy, compassion and fairness.

It's important to be open and understanding. Just like you, most people are seeking out different sources of information because they care about what they vote for. That's why sharing your knowledge and perspective with the people close to you can be so impactful.

Having these conversations can feel awkward and uncomfortable but there are different ways to respond depending on the situation and the people around you. If the conversation gets heated or keeps escalating, remove yourself from the situation. It's okay to pick your battles.

Remember that every conversation and every effort has an impact. By creating a space for others to ask questions and learn more about the Voice, you can help to bring more people along, towards a better future for the whole country.

Step 4: Spread the impact!

Volunteer with Amnesty Voice events, [Yes23](#) and go to local [events and rallies](#). Types of actions you can get involved with:

- Phone Banking
- Door Knocking
- Flyering and Street Stalls
- Wobbleboarding
- Corfluting
- [Use the selfie tool](#) to add a Yes frame to your profile picture

Step 5: Attend Picnic for Change on 7th of October

In collaboration with the **Uluru Youth Dialogues and Hands on Heart Delegates** join us at one of our beautiful park locations on the 7th of October and register [here](#). Together, we'll create a vibrant atmosphere for open dialogue and positive change.



Step 6: Host Your "Picnic for Change"

Feel inspired by the nationwide Picnic for Change events? Take the lead in your community and organise a Picnic for Change in your area.

☐ Choose a Venue:

Identify a local park or open space. Look out if it is accessible, has public toilets, water station, shade (trees or rotunda), BBQ and is welcoming for all members of the community.

Double-check any permissions or permits you might need with the local City Council (normally under 50 people is fine).

☐ Set a Date & Time:

While we've centralised our main event for Saturday October 7th, you can choose a date before the referendum that works best for your local community.

Afternoons usually work best for picnics but consider the local climate and community preferences, morning might be best to beat the heat.

☐ Spread the Word:

Use social media, local community boards, or word of mouth to inform your neighbours and community about the picnic.

Register the event [HERE](#) ! and use the hashtag #Picnic4Change

☐ Create a Safe, Inclusive Space and Encourage Sharing & Learning:

Set some ground rules for respectful dialogue.

Make sure everyone feels welcomed and included. Remember, this is a platform for learning and understanding.

Suggest that attendees bring some research or thoughts on the Voice to Parliament to share.

We recommend printing some of our toolkit materials to have on hand, our QR codes to [Pledge to Vote](#) and our [Voice FAQ's](#) page are a good starting point. Posters - [Voice Treaty Truth](#) & [Support a Voice](#)

☐ Set the Mood and Food:

Bring along some light music (if permitted) - [check out our playlist](#), picnic blankets, and perhaps some games or activities to keep the ambiance lively and engaging.

Ensure there's a defined space for discussions to foster meaningful conversations. (most public parks won't allow marquees or infrastructure without a permit)

We recommend potluck style where everyone brings a dish to share.

Alternatively, you can arrange for light snacks and refreshments, or even collaborate with local eateries for support.

☐ Follow-Up:

After the picnic, encourage attendees to share their experiences, learnings, and photos on social media using the hashtag #PicnicForChange.

This not only amplifies the message but also connects local picnics from across the nation.

☐ Stay Safe:

Remember to adhere to any local health guidelines or restrictions. Keep hand sanitisers available and remind attendees about social distancing if necessary.

Hosting a "Picnic for Change" is more than just a gathering; it's a movement towards understanding, empathy, and collective growth. Let's make change happen, one picnic at a time.

Step 6: **Vote YES on 14 October 2023**

Make history.

NOTE: Any materials that would be intended to advocate or recommend a particular outcome on the referendum matter need to be authorised. Please send designs to communityorganising@amnesty.org.au to get approved before use.



FAQ

You can find all our Frequently Asked Questions about the Voice to Parliament on our website [here](#), this is also updated as more questions come through, but a few key ones are:

WILL THE VOICE HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON FIRST NATIONS LIVES?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people know and understand the best way to deliver real and practical change in their communities. The Voice will provide an avenue for them to provide advice to the Federal Parliament about laws and policies, through a consultative policy-making process that delivers meaningful structural change.

A Voice will mean the Government will have better quality information about First Nations communities and issues, delivered directly from communities themselves. Information from communities will result in better quality laws and policies, better-targeted investment and ultimately better outcomes for First Nations people across many sectors.

DO FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE SUPPORT THE VOICE?

Overwhelmingly, yes. Independent research undertaken in 2023 shows that at least 80% of First Nations people support the Voice.

WHY NOT TREATY FIRST?

The Uluru Statement from the Heart calls for Voice, Treaty and Truth in that order as decided on by the First Nations delegates at the constitutional convention. This order was based on the priorities of the respective representatives from across the country.

Starting with the Voice first is starting with the Constitution - it's the highest law in the land and starting with this is the best way to achieve tangible change.

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE UNIVERSAL, WHY SHOULD WE CREATE SPECIAL TREATMENT/RIGHTS THROUGH THE VOICE?

Human rights are universal, but right now in Australia they are not equally upheld. For hundreds of years, systems brought to this continent through colonisation and settlement have failed to uphold and protect the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and in many cases these systems actively violate the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Since colonisation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have fought for their rights, including the right to make decisions for their families, their Nations, and their lands. Amnesty International is proud to stand in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through the referendum campaign and in all campaigns for First Nations justice.

WHAT ABOUT A VOICE FOR OTHER MARGINALISED GROUPS?

There are many individuals, communities and groups in Australia whose human rights are threatened through discrimination and injustice. Human rights are universal, and everyone deserves to have their human rights protected so they are treated fairly and with dignity. That's why Amnesty exists, and why we are campaigning for a Human Rights Act which would protect the human rights of all Australians.

First Nations people have lived and cared for this continent for over 60,000 years, and constitute the oldest living cultures in the world. As such, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people deserve special recognition in Australia's constitution, to recognise their significant place in the history – present, and future – of this continent.

RESOURCES

EVERYTHING YOU NEED:



Amnesty's Voice [webpage](#)

- A. [Pledge to vote Yes to the Voice](#) & [QR code print out](#)
- B. [FAQs](#) & [QR code print out](#)
- C. Posters - [Voice Treaty Truth](#) & [Support a Voice](#)
- D. Connect with fellow Amnesty Activists working on the Voice by joining the Slack channel [#activist-voice-campaign](#)



Uluru Statement from the Heart

- A. [Resources](#):
 - i. [The Statement](#)
 - ii. [Supporter Kit](#)
 - iii. [Statement Translations](#) (83 different languages)
 - iv. [Training](#)
- B. [Videos](#)
 - i. [History is Calling](#)
 - ii. [You're the Voice Referendum Ad John Farnham](#)



Yes 23

- A. Resources:
 - i. [Conversations guide](#)
 - ii. Join local [Yes 23 groups](#)
- B. Calendar:
 - i. Attend local [Yes 23 events](#)

ALLIES FOR ULURU

Allies for Uluru

- A. [Resources](#):
 - ii. [Guide 'How to Talk about the Voice to Parliament' – Yes 23](#)
 - iii. [Voice to Parliament online course – Yes 23 & Uluru Dialogues](#)
 - iv. [Social media assets – Uluru Dialogues](#)
 - v. [Merchandise and collateral – Yes 23](#)
 - vi. [Passing the Message Stick messaging guide – Australian Progress & Get Up](#)
 - vii. [Vote 'Yes' Pledge support pack – Yes 23](#)
 - viii. [Voice to Parliament multicultural resources - Life Without Barriers](#)
 - ix. [Voice to Parliament social media toolkit in 45 languages - Life Without Barriers, Polaron Language Services](#)
 - x. [Voice to Parliament translated factsheets - Life Without Barriers, Polaron Language Services](#)
- B. [Allies for Uluru Calendar](#)

