

The Greek festival of Sydney Proudly presents;

RACISM IN AUSTRALIA – A PUBLIC FORUM, PANELISTS BRIEF

Wed the 12th of April, the Greek Orthodox Community Club nsw

Welcome and thank you for accepting this invitation to feature as an addition to the Greek Festival of Sydney Racism Panel as a panellist.

CONTACTS;

The event will be chaired / MC'd by Dr Alfred Vincent: 9879 6067
On site manager and Event Manager: Ms Rebecca Gray. 0404 855 131

DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS:

Chair; Dr Alfred Vincent

1. Mr. Harry Danalis: 5 MINUTE INTRO
2. Professor Mary Kalantzis: 10 - 15 minute duration
3. Ms. Electra Stathopoulos: 5 – 10 minutes duration
4. Mr. Kaysar Trad : 5 – 10 minutes duration
5. Ms. Randa Kattan: 5 – 10 minutes duration

20 minute break

6. Ms. Maha Abdo: 5 – 10 minutes duration
7. Ms. Rathana Chea : 5 – 10 minutes duration
8. Special Guest TBA: 5 – 10 minutes duration

Discussion with Audience; 1 hour and 20 minute duration

PROGRAM;

6.30PM: arrive

7.10PM beginning of proceedings presented by Dr Alfred Vincent

7.15PM; Welcome, by Mr. Harry Danalis on behalf of the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW

7.20PM: Feature panellist talk, Prof Mary Kalantzis

7.35PM: Panellist talk, Ms. Electra Stathopoulos

7.45PM; Panellist talk, Mr. Kaysar Trad

7.55PM: Panellist talk, Ms. Randa Kattan

8.05PM; 20 MINUTE INTERVAL – Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits served

8.15PM: Panellist talk, Ms. Maha Abdo

8.25PM; Panellist talk, Ms. Rathana Chea

8.25PM; Special Guest panellist TBA

8.35PM: 5 MINUTE INTERVAL – Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits served

8.40PM – 10.00PM; Open discussion with audience

Simply put, your inclusion within the official program as a panellist requires your opinion on the following:

RACISM;

What should each citizen be doing?

What must we demand from our politicians?

What must we demand from the Education System?

How are we able to resolve the situation and move forward harmoniously?

Taking part in a discussion with the audience on Questions discussions and resolutions

ABOUT:

The Greek Festival of Sydney presents a panel discussion on Racism in Australia.

This event has been coordinated, with great passion, by Greek Orthodox Community of NSW, Dr Alfred Vincent, Ms Rebecca Gray and Mr. Peter Polites as a part of the Greek festival of Sydney 2006.

The panelists have been specifically chosen for their ideas and diverse backgrounds.

The aim of this event is to bring together culturally diverse figures within the community and discuss way's in which we can all move forward in a harmonious multicultural society.

Issues of politics, culture, environment, economy, welfare, religion, power and other similar areas are aspects that affect the state of Racism. Is there a way that these aspects can adopt conscious awareness of racism within their organizational structures to improve the state of Racism in Australia now and in the future?

As an organisation who takes an active interest in our communities' welfare, we have established this event as an effort in finding the way to IMPROVE the current situation and first and foremost MOVE FORWARD positively, your contributions in this area are greatly appreciated and we look forward to having your participation on Wednesday the 12th of April 2006.

NOTE TO ALL PANELLISTS;

As the Chair/MC of this event, Dr Alfred Vincent will be introducing all panelists and keeping note of timing for each panelist, this will include a short mention of the time 1 minute prior to the end of your allocated length of talk.

The audience has been invited to take part in discussion, question and answer period, it is encouraged that all panelists keep their talk centered on Racism, the questions above and most importantly, the RESOLUTION.

If you have any special requirements please contact Ms Rebecca Gray ASAP on 0404 855 131 to organise this appropriately.

BRIEF ON ALL PANELLISTS;

Mr. Harry Danalis: *President of the Greek orthodox Community of NSW, Solicitor*

Mr Harry Danalis has been the fighting figure in the Greek Orthodox Community of Australia for over 20 years.

Mr. Danalis' contributions to Multiculturalism in our community and educating people on issues within these areas through the Greek Orthodox Community schools, Churches, Nursing Homes and The annual Greek Festival of Sydney make him an exceptional figure of honour and nobility within the community.

Professor Mary Kalantzis; *Dean of the Faculty of Education, Language and Community Services at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and Research Director of the Centre for Workplace Communication and Culture*

Professor Kalantzis, Formerly Director of the Institute of Interdisciplinary

Studies at James Cook University of North Queensland. From 1994 to 1997, she was Chair of the Queensland Ethnic Affairs Ministerial Advisory Committee, whose role was to advise the Premier of Queensland on matters relating to multiculturalism; a part-time Commissioner of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission from 1995 to 1997; and a Board Member of the Australia Council's Community Cultural Development Board from 1988 to 1993. She is also a widely published author on the subjects of multiculturalism, education and literacy.

Mr. Keysar Trad; *Founder, Islamic Friendship Association*

Has been as spokesperson for Islamic Communities in Australia and has a strong relationship with the media. He has as worked closely with Imam Halili for 20 years and held executive positions in the Lebanese Muslim Association

Most recently he grounded the Islamic Friendship Association and is a published author of several books. Including "Islam...for your information..."

Ms Electra Spathopoulos; *NSW State manager Auscare Australia*

Elektra Spathopoulos is the NSW State Manager of AUSTCARE, a non-profit independent organisation whose mission is to "assist refugee's overseas, displaced people and those affected by landmines to rebuild their lives through the expert delivery of development programs in partnership with local communities and other agencies". Elektra worked in Israel as a consultant with non-government organisations focusing on Jewish-Arab coexistence, civil rights and community development. In 2000, Elektra was awarded a Public Service Medal in the Australia Day Honours list for her work enhancing relations between ethnic communities and relaying the views of these communities to government.

Ms. Randa Kattan; *Executive Director Australian Arabic Communities Council.*

Mrs. Randa Kattan has been an active community leader for the past 15 years She has been vocal on promoting the status of women and social justice principles. Worked in the areas of settlement, employment, youth, women and has initiated a range of anti-racist strategies, cultural and community development initiatives.

Ms. Maha Abdo; *President; Muslim Women's Association*

Was involved in the start up, currently its President + Manager. She was part of the NSW Premiers Council of Women. A Social worker, Media + Women's Activist and a Mother of 4.

Rathana Chea; *Board of Directors for Cambodian Australian Welfare Council. – Ethnic Communities Council*
Background Cambodia Refugee.

Co-Founder the Anti Racism Dept of National Union of Student & 1st Officer bearer of this department. Member of the Board of Directors for Cambodian Australian Welfare Council.

- Was on the ECC Youth wing and was forced to resign due to his employment to the ECC awards.
- Toastmasters Youth Leader of the year and Lions Club youth leader of the year in high school

Spectrum CALD youth Conference organiser.

Largest Multi-Cultural Youth Conference in Australia

Harry to mention: host on behalf of the community to mention

His Eminence, Sh. Taj Aldin Alhilali - apologies

Ms. Linda Burney sends her sincere apologies

Bishop Kevin Manning of the Catholic Diocese of Paramatta – sends his apologies.

Many Thanks,

Rebecca Gray

Festival Director

Greek Festival of Sydney 2006

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