

OPSEU Provincial Human Rights Committee

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM

Since 1966, the 21st of March has been recognized by the United Nations as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Canada was one of the first countries to support the UN declaration

March 21 was initiated in response to the need to heighten awareness of the harmful effects of racism and to demonstrate clearly the commitment of our Union to foster respect, equality and diversity. March 21 has mobilized youth across Canada to rise up and to take a stand against racism. They have spoken loudly and eloquently: there is no place for racism in their lives! The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, aims to raise public awareness on the issue of racism across Canada..

Youth are the heart and soul of the annual March 21 Campaign. They have the energy, commitment and creativity to advance the struggle against racism. They are the voice of the present and the future. They are among the most exposed to racism in their schools and on the streets. In villages, towns and cities across Canada, the March 21 Campaign engages youth to transcend the boundaries of race, ethnicity and religion and to embrace diversity.

In the last few years, instead of progress towards the elimination of racism, Canadians have been witnessing racial profiling and new forms of discriminations prompted by the security agenda that followed the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. It does not have to be this way because racism, in any form, undermines the value of our citizenship. We do not want a society where some Canadians are, in perpetuity, viewed as 'foreigners' because of the colour of their skin, the texture of their hair, their ethnic or religious background or the sound of their first or last name.

RACISM IS DEADLY. LET'S STOP IT.

URL: <http://www.opseu.org/committees/phrcmar21.htm>

Direct OPSEU site: <http://www.opseu.org>