

MEDIA RELEASE

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WOMEN REPORTING VIOLENCE IN A TIME OF WAR: The silenced Voices of the 'Race' Election - Forum

At the culmination of this 'race election' campaign, migrant, refugee and Indigenous women are hosting an alternative 'great debate' to discuss issues of racial and sexual violence from their perspectives.

The election campaign has been waged against a backdrop of security fears about terrorism, refugees and 'ethnic crime.' In this forum, women from non-English speaking and Indigenous backgrounds discuss how the climate of escalating hostility and fear has impacted on their lives.

"The race election we had to have has effectively silenced the voices of women, in particular migrant and refugee women and Indigenous women on issues of sexual and racial violence" said Ms April Pham, spokesperson for Women Reporting Violence Organising Committee.

"The half-day Forum is also an opportunity for a critique of the historical, systematic, and continuing violence waged against women of 'difference' and for discussions about the representation and misrepresentation of racial and sexual violence".

The Forum will commence with Afghan women leading a Remembrance ceremony, followed by a Media Panel where refugee, migrant and Indigenous women will address the Media and take questions. A main Forum and political performance will follow the Media Panel.

Include what organisations/communities these speakers are from:

Speakers and performers will include: Cleonie Quayle, Nada Roude, Masouda, Omeima Sukkariah, Mia Zahra, Rawan Abdul, Lena Nahlous, Jane Corpuz-Brock, Wendy Bacon, and Paula Abood.

The Forum is organised by Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW, We Who Believe in Freedom: End Racialised Punishment, X-Text, UTS and individual activists.

**Women Reporting Violence In A Time of War: Thursday, 8 November, 9:30-12:30,
Level 1, Rm 406, Tower Building, UTS, George St, Broadway.**

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