

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From:** Anonymous 1489**Dated:** November 2024**Submission:**

I just wanted to say a few words as a blak woman who grew up in the 50's and 60's, experienced racism in many of the systems that were supposed to treat me equally but didnt, systems that saw me at the end of the line, not ever being treated fairly and squarely. But how lucky was I, I had amazing parents and grew up in a large family, we were poor and struggling but we had one another. We were always told to be proud of who we were and to stick together. We learnt to be fighters. We were witness to the fight for freedom and justice and some of us in my family, including myself, were there at the big protests that helped shape Australia's respect for us. I can look back on these times and feel very proud. I feel like we are standing at the precipice - next year we may see the election of the most right wing Federal Government we have ever seen, a government who wants us to be 'equal' - to not have our own flag, to not receive any 'special treatment', to be quiet about who we are, our culture and our history. In other words to assimilate ourselves out of existence and not for us any more Aboriginal community organisations or services, or programs. None of that anymore. I feel it will be a giant backwoods' step into the past where we had no rights as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Will we all unite with our allies and rise up and fight against the stripping away of our hard fought for rights? I hope so, I hope the strength and resilience of our Ancestors sets off the fire in the bellies of all our people and those who seek to wipe us out again on our lands learn once and for all - we will never give up, we will always be Aboriginal and Aboriginal people will always be here to carry the truth and to seek justice.

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