

I bring with me many voices of concern from our leaders who are the custodians of our traditions and customs, passed down over generations, for over many thousands of years; leaders who are the caretakers of our lands through our dreaming, mother earth, and spirits - who are still with us to this day, watching over all of us.

Since colonization we have endured much hardship and destruction of our culture, traditions, customs and laws.

These leaders saw our children with lighter skins (half cast) taken away, because they were of a different colour to our people. Some of these children were never to return, but were lost in a world of inhumane treatment perpetuated by the governments' policies of assimilation and destruction of our culture. Some returned in their late 50's and 60's, only to find emptiness as the older generation had already moved on to join our ancestral spirits.

We are people who are very easy to forgive and move on, this we have done for over 200 years, with no resentment and hatred but always willing to extend our hands and welcome our fellow human beings to embrace them as one with our spiritual lands.

Yet the governments and the agencies have always continued their false pretence of charity, giving a little, while still retaining the power and taking away with the other hand. Indigenous people have always put people of different races and cultures first, above selfishness, above any personal wishes.

We have always put our children alongside us so they may learn the ways of our people through teaching, listening, and stories from their elders. They learned about life, the interconnection of all living things, breeding cycles of all animals on our lands, the changing seasons and the songs that go with each animal; so they too have a place on earth. The songs and ceremonies were to ensure the continual survival of animals our people and it was our ownership, our responsibility to ensure no part of those traditions and customs were lost.

Today we see a great decline in all our species across the world; all the living creatures that we were to protect through our songs and ceremonies to ensure the cycle of life continues for all, and to ensure there was a place for them along side our human brothers and sisters across the world. But our friends have now moved on with others, continuing to follow, as we will all do one day.

This destruction across the world shows that we and Governments have not listened and we have not taken note of how best to protect our environment, species of animals, cultures, languages, traditions and customs of all people. Our governments have lost their ways and of our vision

Today, and since its introduction in 2007, Indigenous people across the Northern Territory are facing a similar path of destruction and denial of our basic human rights under the Federal government's "intervention", which is fully supported by the Northern Territory government. The policies that were developed, pushed through parliament quickly, implemented with the government's martial law, and which were supported by the Labor party while in opposition, are having a (?detrimental) reversal (catastrophic?) effect across the NT. ***This breaches the United Nations DECLARATION on the Rights of INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.***

Australian Governments need to recognize, Indigenous people have the rights to the full enjoyment, as collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the charter United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law

Release the chains of control; give us our freedom let us walk once again as free human beings on this earth (our mother), with our ancestors, spirits, songs, ceremonies. Let us share our richness of cultures with others. We are all one blood and connected through our spiritual dreams of pathways, Earth, Water, Trees, Sky, and wind which carries our thoughts and spirits across all continent. Let us once again embrace our younger generation into our folds to show and give them guidance as these are our next generation of leaders who are lost between two worlds (cultures) but are at cross roads between light and darkness. We have an opportunity and one chance in our life time to get it right. Let your hearts guide you not your government policies which is at the core destruction of our indigenous people.

The Australian people have elected you (federal governments) people as our leaders, to take our country and our people forward as one on a journey which would rebuild our bridges and close the gap, to acknowledge we are one and as one we must all stand together to overcome all our challenges.

We now urge you to emerge from your own fear within your mind, within yourself, follow your heart. Return to us once again.

Richard Downs

I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken from me. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred; he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness.

The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.

Nelson Mandela - Freedom - Compassion

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

Nelson Mandela - Inspirational - Great - Challenges – Determination

Let me leave you with these two images and thoughts

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All Aboriginal people have asked the governments is "the right of Indigenous peoples to participate fully at all levels of decision-making in matters which may affect our rights"

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Australia is now a multi-racial country; made up now of many race's of peoples from members of the human race. Australia is now home for them and they are all welcome to live, enjoy, die and be buried in our country as our friends.

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SOUL PROVIDER OF GREAT KNOWLEDGE FOR HER FAMILIES, HER SACRED CHILDREN, HER SONS, DAUGHTERS AND THE WHOLE HERD. BUT IF SHE WERE TO BE CUT DOWN AND SILENCED BY A POACHERS BULLET LIKE THE GREAT TREES WE FELL FOR TIMBER. WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BECOME OF HER HERD, HER FAMILY. HER SACRED CHILDREN WITH NO LEADER, NO LONGER A VOICE TO FOLLOW TO HEAR HER DISTANT RUMBLE.

LET ME COME BACK TO THE NT INTERVENTION AND TELL OUR PRIME MINISTER AND JENNY MACKLIN, YOU TO HAVE SILENCED OUR ELDERS, OUR LEADERS, YOU HAVE DISEMPOWERED OUR PEOPLE UNDER YOUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS NTER MEASURES, YOU HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OVER OUR LANDS, OUR PEOPLE HAVE NO POWER TO RESIST AGAINST YOUR GOVERNMENTS LAWS AND POWERS. YOU TELL US OUR CHILDREN ARE SACRED AND MUST BE CARED FOR SO THEY TOO MAY HAVE A BETTER FUTURE

THEN TELL US THIS OUR MINISTER WHAT FUTURE DO OUR CHILDREN HAVE WHEN YOU HAVE DISEPOWERED AND HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OVER THEIR TRUE LEADERS, TAKEN AWAY OUR VOICE'S, TAKEN AWAY OUR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS COUNTRY, TAKEN CONTROL OVER OUR LANDS.

WILL OUR FATE NOW BE LIKE OUR MATRIACH SISTER WHO'S VOICE HAS BEEN SILENCED, SO SHE WILL NO LONGER LEAD HER SACRED CHILDREN ON HER JOURNEYS OF ANCIENT PAST.

THANK YOU AND SAFE JOURNEY OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.