

Too often, like the media, and because of the media, the political currents of change are diverted from core matters that pertain to the very heart of our society, the heart of our Country and the heart of humanity itself.

The blind-sided effect, either wittingly or unwittingly, ensures that the status quo of privilege and inequality prevail, while the minority, (decimated in numbers though certainly not right), are disempowered by a process legislative discrimination. The voice of this minority, however, holds the key to the progress, longevity and balance of our Australian society as we move toward a future that hinges on the present.

In generations to come, the question will be asked by those with the gift of retrospect, 'What took so long?' Let the First Nation's Voice be heard now. Let the rights of First Nations people be held in equality in our Constitution now. Let the balance of power be returned, from the imbalance that was first enacted on this soil by the first deed of colonisation, to its subversive from today.

The Australian people are waiting for balance; for leadership, that shows in more than words, that government is in service to all people, all citizens, all voices.

Four years after the Uluru Statement was declared, I, as a non-indigenous Australian citizen, call for a voice in parliament to represent First Nations people. I call for this voice to be enshrined in the constitution so that it may become an institution of lasting significance for First Nations and all Australians.

I call for the establishment of a Makarrata Commission to oversee the process of agreement-making and truth-telling as a way of coming together after a 'time of struggle'; a time on which the very foundations of the colonial nation of Australia is resting. It is time to bring balance.

I call for due process enabling legislation for the Voice to be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament; and

That the membership model for the National Voice ensure that previously unheard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the same chance of being selected as established leadership figures.

Let this voice be heard and counted.

Halina Mutton