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Wiradjuri KNUNE COORES Chris Mutori Huggin Ngunawal Jackie Huggins Geljara RAYMIND HELTON Billinama (NLC) Jo Willoot Harka Warka WAYNE Warnet SELINA SNAN HEST ARNHEM. MGARTI KOTAJJARU [NILC) JUNE OSCAR Valda Napumu BUNUBA Tennant Creek NT SUZANNE NADEN Warlpin/Wannu Kaptaye/Alyaway YUN NATION DEBORAH CAR David Aar CARWARVON QLD WA. Mery Ril Schmider R. Williams Pery ANGET NOU CHARDTURY Shannon

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Karel Williams-Patama Dale Sutherla and - Hidgibal - Badjalos CHARMAINE Kulitia Wure-ku Tjukurpa by Hoppy Reid

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## **ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART**

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

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Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished. and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are aliened from their families at unprecedented rates. This

Bordi /Nyul Nyul LANS Ganga

MERIAM MIR

BRIAN BUTLER

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Kirsten Gray

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cannot be because we have no love for them. And our nouth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future. These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature

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of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the astablishment of a First Nations Voice enchringd in the Constitution

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future

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Rowers Bullio Rod Towney Wirnsjuri

an Aunta NLC

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PATLICK JOALASSA YORKSTON

Victor WOONET. W.A Trish Rigby Grock Eylandt Mark Doons Donal Pakana Tas

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Juny Oblan Sou Chuserely MIA CHEISTOPHESEN P WERAN Ged CARK .\* TJAPMALA I MAGA TRA Liso Mumbin Si Cara Rek J Cail Beck NOONAC Mer Mare Morrison TSI-Withati the Mahametwill Port LAS GOMAS ALAWA POTOR WHORE BUTCHELLA THUDGARI RIPUARD SIM POW Barbara R Shaw Jun toto - MI Nancy Camp. K ORAL MEGUNARRIN HATELD Rodney Fribas INFLISSA CLAR NCAMONDE SAN KICKETT UATIN GARA Steven Brown LBT atricia Lourie

Yarg1/Bundjalunc Nation Northern NSW Christy Cain Marthen Rad DOYEN RADCLIFFE MELISHA.M. Non. Thures a Rock and A NAAGJA BALNGARRAHABRA JANNY AND BALNGARRAHABRA

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 For additional information about the Uluru Statement from the Heart and to explore what it means to you:

 ulurustatement.org
 reconciliation.org.au
 recwa.org.au