Stand With First Nations

The Uluru Statement invited you “to walk with us”

Options to act in response

Before your first meeting

What First Nations authors ask of you



“In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard.”

“We are located here together, we are born here, we arrive here, we die here and we must coexist in a peaceful way.”

The first line comes from the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which First Nations delegates made at Uluru on 26 May 2017. [1] The second comes from Professor Megan Davis, a Cobble Cobble woman and co-chair of the Uluru Dialogue. [2]

Listen first

Common Ground, which a First Nations team and board lead, puts deep listening to First Nations people ahead of speaking, and warns against speaking for them. [3]

Amplify First Nations voices and step back

When someone asks you to speak on a First Nations issue, point them to a First Nations speaker. [3]

Leave First Nations decisions to First Nations people

Common Ground names a continuing harm of colonisation: decisions made for First Nations people, without First Nations people in the room. [3]

Challenge racist remarks wherever you hear them

Do it especially when it is uncomfortable. [3]

Learn the true history of the Country you stand on

Start with what First Nations people have written and made. [3]

Pay the rent

Give to First Nations-led organisations. [3]

Stay when it costs something

Professor Megan Davis, a Cobble Cobble woman, told the National Allyship Summit on 18 September 2026 that many who had backed Voice, Treaty, and Truth stepped back after the referendum. The measure is what First Nations people can count on you to do. [4]

Talk frankly about race and power

Reconciliation without frank talk about race and power, and without truth about the past and the present, is window dressing, as Dr Chelsea Bond argues. [5]

Before you set out

- Check that the meeting or event welcomes newcomers.
- Confirm the time, the place, any booking, and any cost.
- If you need access arrangements, ask the organiser before the day.
- Read the invitation and anything it asks of you.
- Ask before you photograph or record anyone.
- Before you leave, ask what you could do next.

Sources

1. The Uluru Statement from the Heart, The Uluru Dialogue.
2. 2017: The Uluru Statement from the Heart, Megan Davis, Australian Dictionary of Biography.
3. Meaningful Allyship 365 Days a Year, Common Ground.
4. 2026 National Allyship Summit, ANTAR.
5. The uncomfortable truth about Reconciliation, Chelsea Bond, NITV.