



Australian
Human Rights
Commission

Wiyi Yani U Thangani

SUPPORTER TOOLKIT



The Australian Human Rights Commission encourages the dissemination and exchange of information provided in this publication.



All material presented in this publication is provided under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia, with the exception of:

- the Australian Human Rights Commission logo
- photographs and images
- any content or material provided by third parties.

The details of the relevant licence conditions are available on the Creative Commons website, as is the full legal code for the CC BY 3.0 AU licence.

Attribution

Material obtained from this publication is to be attributed to the Australian Human Rights Commission with the following copyright notice:

© Australian Human Rights Commission 2021.

ISBN 978-1-925917-28-4

Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices): Securing Our Rights, Securing Our Future—Supporter Toolkit

Design and layout Dancingirl Designs

Artwork Artists Elaine Chambers in collaboration with Riki Salam, We Are 27 Creative, 2017

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that the *Wiyi Yani U Thangani* report and community guide contains images, names and voices of people who may be deceased.

Wiyi Yani U Thangani

SUPPORTER TOOLKIT



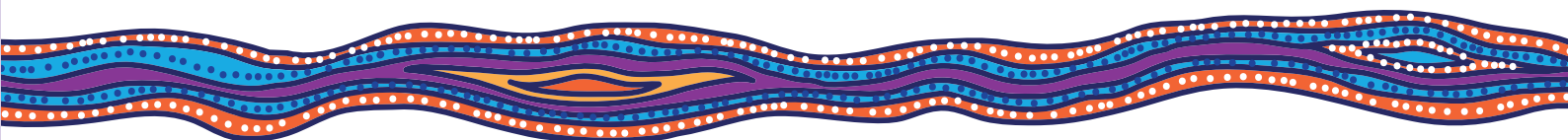
Wiyi Yani U Thangani background

Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices): Securing our Rights, Securing our Future 2020 is a once in a generation landmark report.

Every page, in every chapter, is informed by the voices of First Nations women and girls from right across Australia. This expansive whole-of-life report explores the strengths, priorities, aspirations and profound inequalities raised and experienced by women and girls. Wiyi Yani U Thangani offers a well overdue First Nations gender-lens on matters relating to justice and child protection to health, social and emotional wellbeing, service delivery, housing, disability, access to country and economic participation.

A major message throughout the Report is that **structural change** and systemic reform are needed in order to combat and overcome inequalities and intergenerational harms and trauma impacting women and girls across all areas of their lives. Women and girls spoke of the need for systems to recognise and support their holistic realities and invest in their incredible worth—for the benefit of all of society.

Wiyi Yani U Thangani puts forward principles, seven overarching structural reform recommendations and a series of Pathways Forward. Taken together, this plan dismantles punitive structures and enables the formation of frameworks that strengthen and empower First Nations women and girls. Implementation of the following recommendations is pivotal to achieving **First Nations gender justice and equality in Australia**.



Overarching Recommendations

See Chapter 4 of the *Wiyi Yani U Thangani* report for the full text of the recommendations

01

A National Action Plan on advancing the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls

All Australian Governments commit to the development of a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and Girls Action Plan to address the challenges, priorities and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls.

02

Conduct a National Summit and establish a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and Girls Advisory Body

The Australian Government fund a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Summit to design the key elements of the National Plan and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and Girls Advisory Body to lead and implement the National Action Plan and retain a monitoring role to hold all governments to account.

03

Empowering women's leadership on the ground

All Australian Governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations, as well as business, NGO and education sectors to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls' leadership. This includes embedding gender equality as a key principle and targets to increase the representation of First Nations women across workplaces and in decision-making roles.

04

Protecting, supporting, and reviving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices and knowledge systems

All Australian Governments urgently invest in community-led approaches to enable women and girls to exercise their cultural rights to practise, transmit and preserve our Law and ceremony, languages, knowledges and cultural practices.

05

An urgent focus on healing from intergenerational trauma

The Australian Government recognise the importance of understanding and addressing intergenerational trauma to closing the gap across all socio-economic and cultural indicators of wellbeing. This includes by investment in community-led healing initiatives and a national healing and trauma-informed workforce development strategy.

06

National action to eradicate racism

The Australian Government commit to action to address racism experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including women and girls. This includes developing a national anti-racism framework with targets and accountability measures, data collection and public awareness raising activities.

07

Local and regional focused engagement

The Australian Government focus its engagement and service delivery practices with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls and their communities at the local and regional level. This requires 'needs mapping', directing funds to target the root causes of inequality, evaluating the impacts of funding decisions on women, supporting capacity-building and the full involvement of communities in research and evaluation.

Principles

See Chapter 4 of the *Wiyi Yani U Thangani* report for the full text of the principles

01

Embedding culture and respect for identity:

Women and girls learn and practice their culture, knowledge and languages, and their diverse identities are respected

02

Truth-telling:

All Australians recognise past and present injustices and their ongoing impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

03

Equity in leadership:

Women and girls are respected and equally represented in leadership

04

A rights-based approach:

Human Rights are built into policy and decision-making processes

05

A place-based approach:

Governments acknowledge the efficacy of place-based initiatives

06

Understanding intersectional discrimination:

The experiences of First Nations women and girls are informed by a complex mix of race, gender, age and other attributes

07

Lifting women lifts the whole community:

Measures designed to enhance the enjoyment of human rights by First Nations women and girls are of benefit to their entire communities

08

Inclusion and participation:

Women and girls are supported to participate in decision-making that affects their lives

09

Accountability and transparency:

Government actions and decisions are transparent and there is accountability for outcomes



We need your support

Australia does not currently have a nationally coherent and consistent approach to responding to the needs and improving the life outcomes of First Nations women and girls. Wiyi Yani U Thangani is one of the most significant documents we have in Australia right now to guide this process. Understanding how we incorporate gender equality into all we do, how we invest and unleash the potential of First Nations women and girls, and all women in Australia, has never been so important and urgent.

Your voice and your support matters.

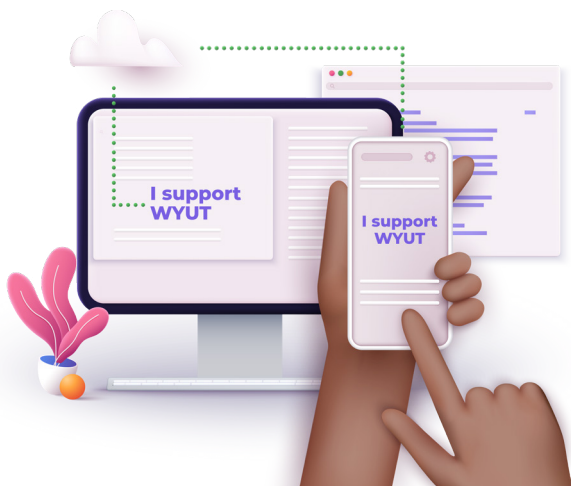
How you can support the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's voices) Project



Share your support online or through social media platforms

Feel free to use the following words. You can post them on your website or social media platforms.

- *[/Name of Organisation]* supports the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Report and Project. It's time to achieve First Nations Gender Justice and Equality in Australia <https://wiyiyaniuthangani.humanrights.gov.au/>
- Check out the landmark Wiyi Yani U Thangani Report and Community Guide <https://wiyiyaniuthangani.humanrights.gov.au/>
- Wiyi Yani U Thangani is the first time since 1986 that women and girls have been heard as a collective. Read the report, listen and respond to their voices <https://wiyiyaniuthangani.humanrights.gov.au/>





Develop or endorse a statement of support

Feel free to use the following words. You can post them on your website or social media platforms. Accompanying social media titles and resources can be found at the end of the toolkit.

[*Name/organisation*] is a proud supporter of the Australian Human Rights Commission's Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Report and project. The report, released in December 2020, is the first time since 1986 that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls have been consulted as a collective about our [*or their*] rights, needs and aspirations. As Wiyi Yani U Thangani states, First Nations women and girls are strong, brave, determined and resilient—they have remarkable skills, knowledge and boundless potential. The structural inequalities, poverty, trauma and discrimination that First Nations women and girls live with in Australia today, is unacceptable and must be addressed and overcome.

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani report puts on the table an ambitious and necessary First Nations female-led plan for structural change. [*Name/organisation*] supports the Reports principles, key findings, overarching recommendations and pathways forward. We also back the major calls for action to hold a First Nations women and girls National Summit, and from this to develop a National Action Plan. These actions are critical to respond to the priorities set out in Wiyi Yani U Thangani so together, all Australians can achieve First nations gender justice and equality.

It is time to respond to First Nations women and girls' voices by implementing the Wiyi Yani U Thangani report.

To read the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Report click [here](#) and for the Community Guide click [here](#).

Optional: Take your statement of support further and endorse the Wiyi Yani U Thangani principles and overarching recommendations and explain what they mean to you/your organisation—see page three for the list of principles.

Here is an example from our friends at WOW Australia <https://www.wowaustralia.com.au/wiyi-yani-u-thangani>



Publish your statement of support on your website or publish a media release—or both!

Once you are happy with your statement of support you can publish it to your organisations webpage. You could add your statement to your websites rolling banner, news pages or create a dedicated Wiyi Yani U Thangani page on your website.

There are many other options for publishing your statement of support such as through your organisation's newsletter, annual report, social media or via a media release or news article. Individuals can also publish their statement via their personal platforms.

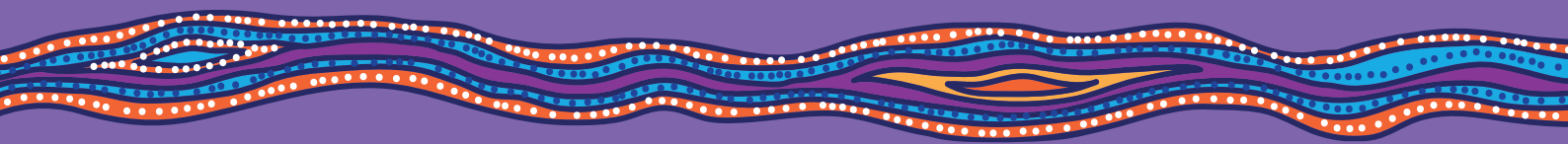
Send the link to your statement of support to:

**wiyiyaniuthangani@
humanrights.gov.au**

By doing so, you will join our growing Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Network for Action.

**Act now for
First Nations
gender justice
and equality**

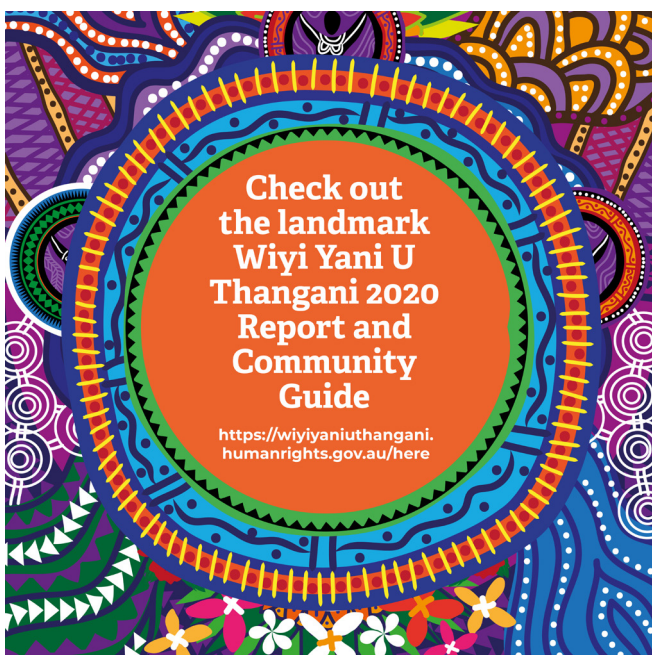
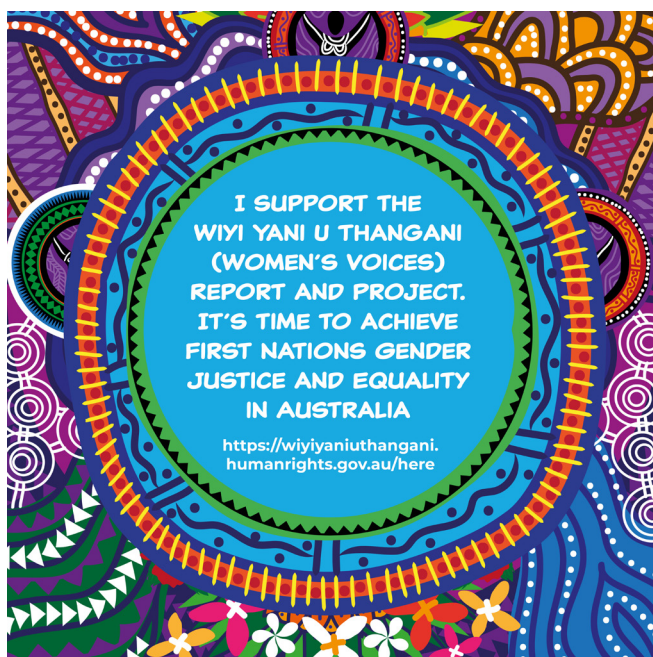
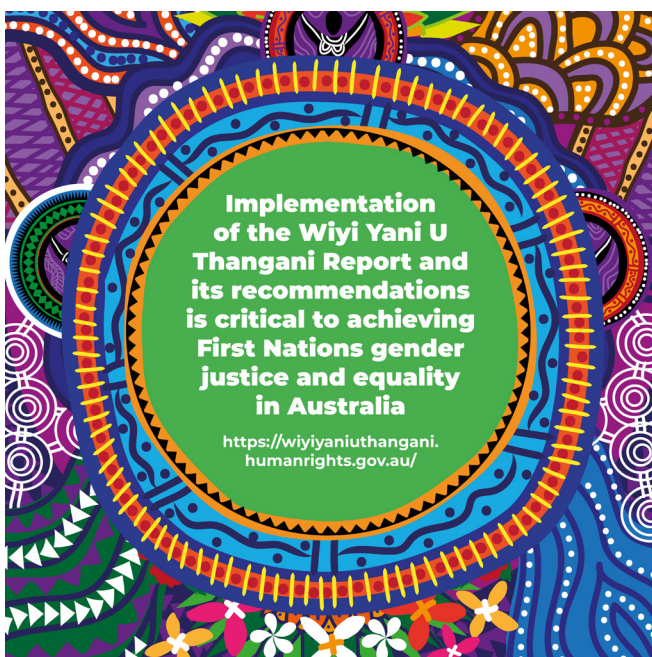




Resources

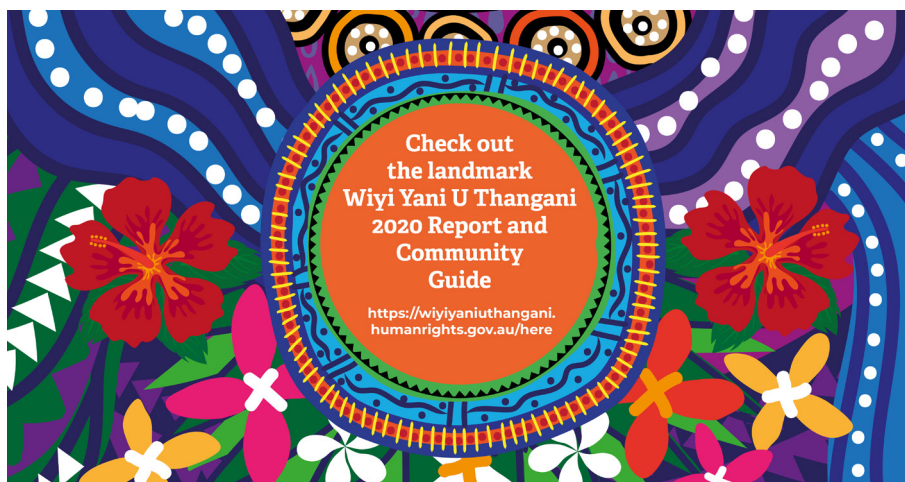
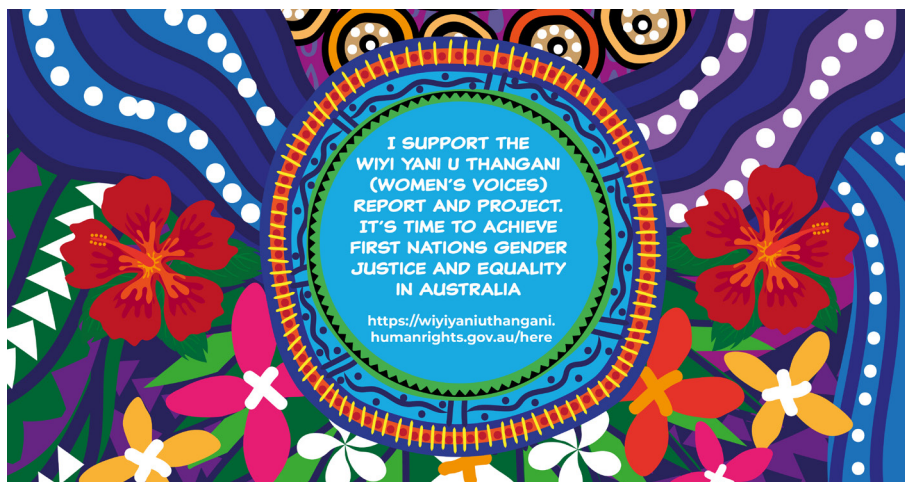
CLICK HERE TO
DOWNLOAD RESOURCES

Social Media tiles - Instagram



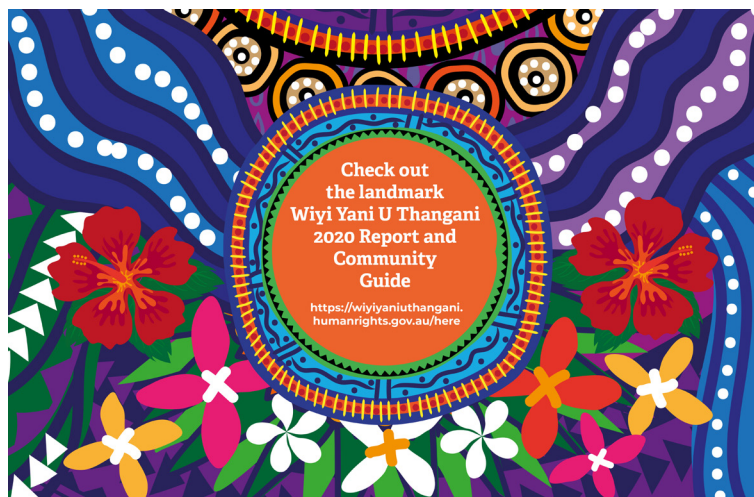


Social Media tiles - Facebook





Website banners (full screen)





Website banners (centre screen)

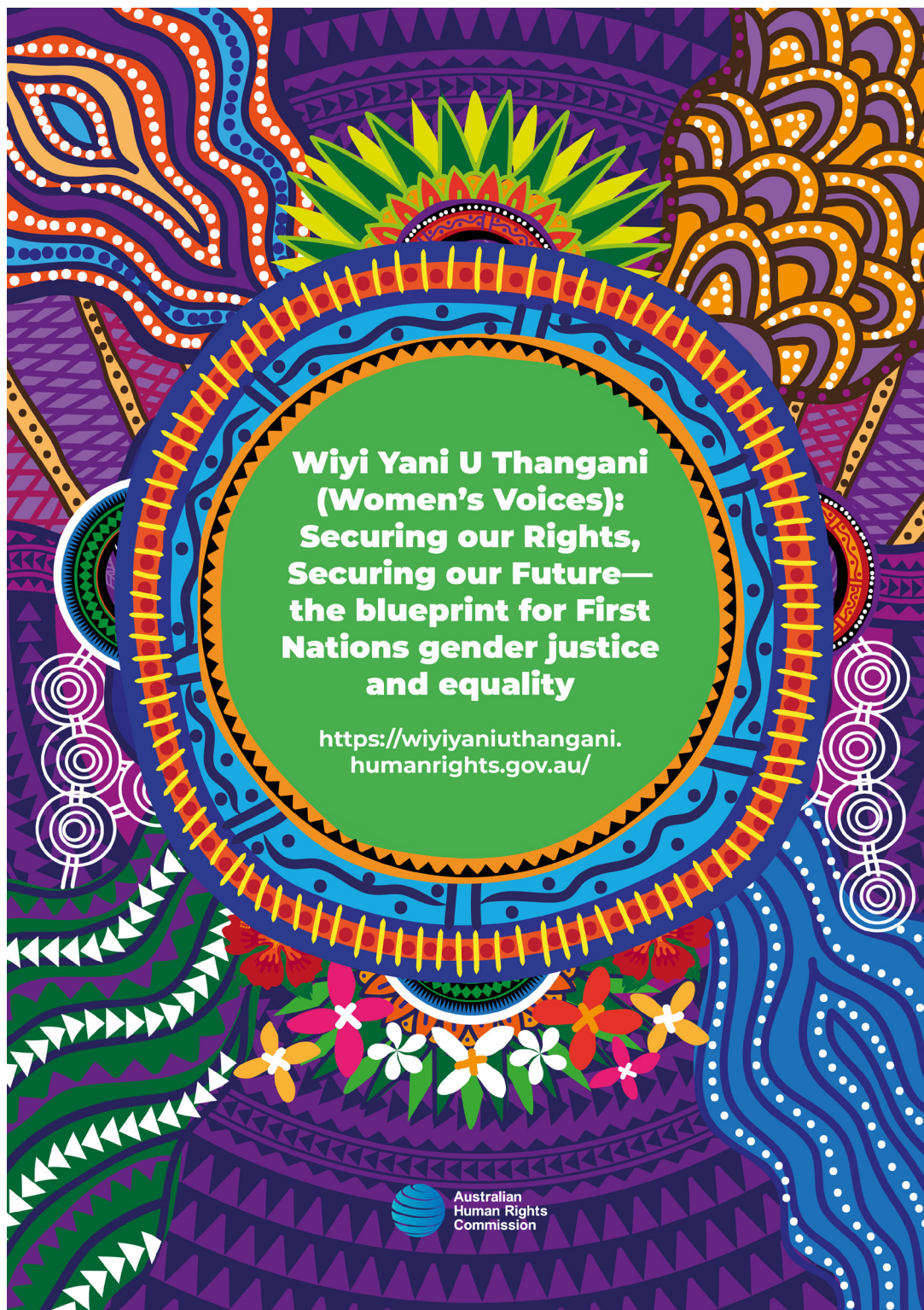




Email signatures



Poster



**Wiyi Yani U Thangani
(Women's Voices):
Securing our Rights,
Securing our Future—
the blueprint for First
Nations gender justice
and equality**

<https://wiyiyaniuthangani.humanrights.gov.au/>



Further Information

Australian Human Rights Commission

Level 3, 175 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Telephone: (02) 9284 9600
Complaints Infoline: 1300 656 419
General enquiries and publications: 1300 369 711
TTY: 1800 620 241
Fax: (02) 9284 9611
Website: **www.humanrights.gov.au**

For detailed and up to date information about the Australian Human Rights Commission visit our website at **www.humanrights.gov.au**. To order more publications from the Australian Human Rights Commission, download a Publication Order Form at **www.humanrights.gov.au/about/publications/**, call: (02) 9284 9600, fax: (02) 9284 9611 or email: **publications@humanrights.gov.au**.

