

**STATEMENT ON RECENT ATTACK ON USYD CAMPUS**

The USU is deeply concerned about a recent attack that is reported in *Honi Soit* to have taken place on campus. The student was spat on, and punched multiple times, including being jabbed in the eye with a key at around 4:45 pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

The USU is particularly concerned about reports of how it was a seemingly racially charged attack.

In addition, reports that nearby campus security took an extended time to arrive are also deeply troubling, especially when this appears to have taken place during the day. The USU will be raising this with the University at the next available opportunity.

Every student has the right to come to campus and feel safe. In addition, every student has the right to feel their whole self on campus, and to make no apologies for who they are.

Actions that threaten this – threaten the fabric of our University community. We know that international students, and all students of colour go through additional stress at University. They need no additional fears for their safety.

The USU would like to remind all ethnocultural students that the Ethnocultural Space is available in Manning Building and is able to be entered by anyone who is a person of colour, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and/or feels marginalised by white supremacy or systemic racism.

The USU aims to foster a warm, supportive and proactive group to address issues of racism, both within the University and beyond, in our greater communities.

If anyone is feeling distressed by what has happened and is in need of support, please contact the University Mental Health line on 1800 011 511 or Lifeline on 13 11 14.

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