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Entheogenesis Australis Statement on Black Lives Matter, Racism, and Respecting Traditional Knowledge

Entheogenesis Australis (EGA) stands with the Black Lives Matter movement and all who wish to address the harm of racially motivated discrimination, violence and injustice.

We condemn the persecution, inequality and systemic abuse of human rights that Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) continue to endure in Australia and around the world. These issues are complex, sensitive, long-standing, and deeply entrenched in society.

Our community benefits greatly from sacred and medicinal plants and from Indigenous knowledge on their use and cultural significance. EGA strongly believes that how we receive and share information is a powerful act and requires the utmost care and consideration.

EGA respects the rights of Traditional Owners to choose when and where to share knowledge - botanical or otherwise - outside of their communities. There is a long history of exploitation, misappropriation, and destruction of Indigenous knowledge and culture by colonial powers, from government policies through to corporate and commercial interests. Healing racism in our community includes understanding and adhering to correct cultural protocols, respecting intellectual property, and proper consultation. This is a learning process, and we are striving to improve in these areas.

The prohibition and criminalisation of certain native plants and their traditional use, as well as other psychoactive substances, disproportionately impacts BIPOC communities across the planet. The failed war on drugs is founded on and inextricably tied to systemic racism, with police forces acting as a tool of dispossession, domination and control through aggressive tactics and racial bias. In Australia, the shameful fact is that First Nations people are incarcerated at a higher rate than any other people in the world, in 2020 making up around 28% of the prison population but only 3.3% of the country's population. Our drug laws serve to continue cycles of disadvantage and trauma within these communities.

In seeking to create a better and fairer world with the help of plants, we must not ignore the very real and important issues of equal access, intersectionality, privilege, complicity, and intergenerational trauma. We acknowledge that action is far more meaningful than words.

EGA is committed to amplifying BIPOC voices through our programming and media content, and to making our community, our events, and our online presence safe, equitable and inclusive spaces for all. We endeavour to listen, support, learn, evolve, and proactively engage in the ongoing conversation to combat racism at all levels of society.

Respectfully
Entheogenesis Australis
[**www.entheogenesis.org**](http://www.entheogenesis.org)