

Media Release

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Centre for Migrant
and Refugee Health

We embrace your health

Founder & Executive Director

Centre for Migrant and Refugee Health

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Re: Respond to the Sky News Australia inflammatory comments

The Sky News Australia's media comments citing a community leader's opinions may inflict significant mental health issues to the South Sudanese, Muslims, and other diverse Ethnic Communities amidst COVID-19 spike in Victoria, Australia.

The Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) has critically wreaked havoc on individual [s] mental health globally. The South Sudanese, Muslims, and wider ethnic diverse communities from migrant and refugee backgrounds in Victoria and Australia are among those affected. The Sky News Australia else outrageous criticism referring to a community leader comments blaming the Victorian Government of deficiencies in the communicating the risk of COVID-19 in local languages and English stands a chance of meticulous investigation from the media outlet before quoting on the excerpt. While the Victorian Government and communities are earnestly responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical to be aware of migrant and refugee prior mental health and possible worst progression during the COVID-19 epidemic.

The Sky News Australia reporting portrayed South Sudanese, Muslims and other ethnic diverse communities described to as "*poorly assimilated migrants spark virus outbreaks by failing to abide by COVID-19 rules*" and "*surge in an unemployment*" lacked markers of social identity and recognition. These remarks indirectly make migrant, and refugee cohorts highly become self-critical and frequently internalised an ongoing dialogue harshly judgemental of themselves during COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, the impact of their social and mental health state. It is also arguably viewed as an abhorrence one-dimensional representation lights, and a gestured support that depicts these communities as degrading.

Whereas, at this time of COVID-19 pandemic requires solidarity, justice, and respect for all Victoria communities. We must admittedly acknowledge that there are challenges and inadequacies in settlement of migrants and refugees in Victoria and across Australia. So, the COVID-19 pandemic crisis is crucial, and thus, reporting media outlets must judiciously act responsibly. The communities and other agencies need to support the Victorian Government's efforts to address COVID-10 impact and spread of the virus for the common good of Australian's communities.

The Centre for Migrant and Refugee Health (CMRH) viewed the Sky News Australia remarks are incorrectly, and undutiful displaced on the vulnerable and isolated communities regarding uncertainty spread of COVID-19 pandemic in Victoria. The statements pose a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of the individual [s] in the communities of Victoria, Australia.

In Solidarity

For more information,

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