



## CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES IN NEW SOUTH WALES CLRI (NSW)

ABN: 52 476 362 010  
Member of Catholic Church Religious Group

Mr Lindsay Tanner  
Minister for Finance & Deregulation  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

Dear Mr Tanner,

The Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes (NSW) has over three thousand members and, through its social justice committee, works to support and advocate on behalf of poor and disadvantaged people.

Many of our members work with refugees in schools and parishes, at the Asylum Seekers Centre, the House of Welcome, Jesuit Refugee Service and centres run by the Mercy Sisters, the Sisters of St Joseph and others. A number of the current refugees requiring education and support from these centres come from Sudan and other parts of Africa and "endure prejudice and discrimination in their daily lives."

Thank you for your Redmond Barry 2008 Lecture where you faced, unflinchingly, the inherent racism which taints so much of Australian society and makes life incredibly difficult for African-Australians. We welcomed your efforts to redress the damage made, last year, by Kevin Andrew's remarks about African refugees and your desire to "recognise and celebrate the achievements" of African-Australians and identify them as a significant part of our country.

Those Australian values of "openness, energy and decency" which you highlighted in your address, are present in the community and our co-workers, many of them volunteers, do much to support and encourage African-Australians. We celebrate their concern and are always grateful for their commitment, their humour and their ability to stand against racism and discrimination.

Thank you for using the Redmond Barry Lecture to focus on the challenges and difficulties faced by African-Australians while celebrating all they have to offer our country.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Libby Rogerson IBVM  
for CLRI (NSW)  
4 August 2008

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