

Letters to The Australian – 23 July 2022

The claim to constitutional recognition, and racial separatism, made in the Uluru statement rests on an entirely religious/spiritual premise – that there exists a racially specific, spiritual connection that links Aboriginal people – and only Aboriginal people – to the Australian landmass.

People are free to hold whatever religious or spiritual beliefs they wish. But metaphysical and spiritual claims, such as the Uluru statement sets out, can play no role in our constitutional order. Are not the European wars of religion – in which millions died during the 16th and 17th centuries – sufficient evidence of the grave folly of religion being woven into the fabric of the state?

I can hardly believe that apparently sensible people are imploring the Australian public to privilege a particular religion, which supposedly favours one particular race, in our Constitution.

Whatever the challenges facing some Aboriginal people may be, they must be addressed within our current constitutional framework which is, correctly, blind to religion and to race.

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