



Pupils at Brooklyn Primary school have joined the growing list of people who are taking the Independent Media's anti-racism pledge. They are, from left, Rizky Anam, Xander Silver, Mthomboloyo Buzani, Elena Martinez, Kaylen Lucas and Botsalano Makgabo. They showed their support by putting their hands on the RacismStopsWithMe campaign banner.

## Thousands sign anti-racism pledge

### STAFF REPORTER

THOUSANDS of South Africans have taken the pledge to fight racism in their homes, schools and workplaces through the #Racism-StopsWithMe campaign.

The initiative was launched last month by Sekunjalo, the Independent Media group, the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, the South African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (Sactwu) and the Fibre Processing and Manufacturing (FP&M) Sector Education and Training Authority.

Through the campaign, a pledge to fight against racism was launched, which has set Twitter and Facebook abuzz as users snapped a picture of their hand in the space provided on the cover of all Independent Media newspaper titles, and shared it on

social media, challenging others to do the same, by using #Racism-StopsWithMe.

The pledge commits you to:

Remove all prejudice from my heart and mind;

● Respect the dignity of every individual regardless of race, in both word and deed;

● Speak up in situations of prejudice, racism and exploitation of any person;

● Stand in solidarity with victims of hatred and violence;

● Acknowledge apartheid for the evil system it was and while I am not directly responsible for its legacy, I am responsible for how I respond to it today; and

● Listen and join the dialogue on racial equality with patience, understanding and respect.

On the 26th anniversary of the announcement to release former

president Nelson Mandela and the unbanning of liberation organisations, the Anti-Racism Network of South Africa (ARNSA), representing more than 80 organisations around the country, has strengthened efforts to fight racism by launching Anti-Racism week which ends on Monday.

Activities including community dialogues and workshops have taken place around the country during the week.

The ARNSA also has a pledge which users can take on Facebook or Twitter and so far, nearly 5000 people have signed the it.

The pledge commits signers to learn about racism, talk about it, speak out against it and act to stop it. You can find the ARNSA pledge at: <http://www.arnsa.org.za/take-onracism>.

You can also visit the Independent microsite [stopracism.iol.co.za](http://stopracism.iol.co.za) to add your voice to the debate and read stories covering topics of race, discrimination and identity.

