TWO students involved in a “blackface” incident have been suspended from residence.

One of the two women has also been stripped of her duties as a student mentor at Stellenbosch University.

The two were kicked out on Saturday after a photo of them in party costumes, in which their bodies and faces were smeared in what appears to be black paint, emerged.

In an apology posted on Facebook, one of the young women at the centre of the controversy says the outfit consisted of purple paint and glitter and was never meant to “demean blackness”.

**Insult**

“The intention was not to be black or insult the black community,” she wrote.

Their suspension from their girls’ residence comes as Open Stellenbosch members are threatening to take legal action against the university for failure to act more decisively against the two.

The activism group met management of the Heemstede Dameskoshuis on Friday night, where students expressed their anger at the incident, which has gone viral on social media.

The group included the Students’ Representative Council (SRC), the residence house committee and Heemstede residents.

The institution was represented by staff members, including professor Nico Koopman, Acting Vice-Rector for Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel.

Simone Cupido, spokeswoman for Open Stellenbosch, said students were unhappy with management’s decision and want the two expelled from the university.

“We want something to be done about this serious matter and we are planning on reporting the matter to the Anti-Racism Forum,” she told Weekend Argus.

**Demand for harsher punishment**

**Demands for harsher punishment against students bust in ‘blackface’**

By VOICE REPORTER

Stellenbosch University spokesman Martin Viljoen said the university condemned all forms of racism.

**Discrimination**

He added that a case has been registered with the equality unit, recently established on campus to deal with unfair discrimination and sexual harassment.

In 2014, the institution had a similar incident in which two male students attended a birthday party in blackface. They dressed up as tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, using pillows for the sisters’ famous curves.

It’s understood that the university did not take disciplinary action against the young men.