FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Stellenbosch SRC  
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SRC stance on alleged racist incident  

The SRC strongly condemns the recent “Black-facing” incident that has taken place at one of our University’s womxn residences. It is our belief that any insensitive act of painting oneself should not be acceptable in 2016, especially after the vast attention the media and the University has given to this issue. This ignorant act goes against our values as it further perpetuates the exclusionary institutional culture within this University.

Blackfacing dates back to the despotic days of slavery, where Black people were fetishized and treated as animals on stages - known examples are Jim Crow, and Zip Coon performed by George Dixon is another popular example where the actor made a mockery of free blacks. These shows were characterizations done by white people where the expectations was created that if you have a darker skin, no matter what your background, you would conform to various undermining stereotypes. There can be no justification for such acts as it is not in line with our Constitutional values and was highlighted in the now infamous 2014 Blackfacing at a Stellenbosch University Men’s residence.

The SRC has already reported this incident to the University’s Central Disciplinary Committee and we expect that this matter will be dealt with immediate effect. We implore the Centre for Student Structures and Communities to review the students’ accommodation in university residence while the process continues. We believe that harsh measures should be taken, especially since this campus has experienced “blackfacing” a mere year and a half ago.

We want to stress that we distance ourselves from any exclusionary practices taking place on this campus as we move towards a Stellenbosch University that is truly an African University. A campus that is truly inclusive, innovative and future focused.

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