



VTMH FORUM 2023

**Women Empowering Communities**

Deepening the Dialogue in  
Mental Health and Wellbeing

# Presentation: 'Bottom-up Empowerment to Speak Out Against Racism.'

**Dr Mario Peucker**, Associate Professor, Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities, Victoria University and Executive Member, Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies (CRIS)

**Linda Yang**, Islamophobia Support Service Community and Case Support Officer Islamic Council of Victoria

**Huwieda Idris**, Caseworker, Doorways Salvation Army



**Mario Peucker** is an associate professor at the Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities at Victoria University and an executive member of the think tank Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies (CRIS). Mario has undertaken research on community activism, inclusion-exclusion dynamics and radical political movements since 2003, both in Europe and since 2010 in Australia. In the past few years, his work has mainly focussed on facilitating community-led change in supporting those who experience racism.



**Linda Yang** is the Islamophobia Support Service Community and Case Support Officer at the Islamic Council of Victoria. Linda is passionate about empowering individuals from diverse backgrounds by creating inclusive opportunities. Linda has completed her Bachelor's Degree in Food Technology and Nutrition, Diploma in Counselling and several studies in Family and Domestic Violence. Linda comes from a range of experiences and has worked within the community service sector alongside the Australian Multicultural Foundation, National Zakat Foundation and Uniting VicTas. Linda is also a current member of Darebin Interfaith Advisory Committee and Whittlesea Anti-Racism Support Network.



**Huwieda Idris** is a caseworker and community connector. She facilitates and leads projects, advocates and assists community members in navigating services. Huweida is currently working as a case manager at Doorways Salvation Army

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