

Press Release

For immediate release

31 August 2016



South African Institute of Race Relations
The power of ideas

Media Contacts: Bakang Mmolawa Tel: 011-482-7221 ext. 2003 Email: bakang@irr.org.za

Kelebogile Leepile Tel: 011-482-7221 ext 2018 Email: kelebogile@irr.org.za

IRR welcomes Pretoria Girls High investigation

"The Institute of Race Relations is deeply concerned about the allegations of racism levelled at the management of the Pretoria High School for Girls in applying purported discriminatory practices regarding the application of the school's hair policy.

In the current climate, the consequences of acts of racism, potentially racist behaviour and the consequences of accusations of racism, can be very damaging. This is particularly so in the face of insufficient information from all parties involved.

The IRR welcomes the announcement by the MEC for Education in Gauteng, Panyaza Lesufi, that a formal investigation into the matter will be convened, and proposes that the investigation be independent of the Department so that all stakeholders can take part.

"The investigation must make findings to the MEC who can then take action on the evidence gathered. The government must then, if appropriate, create new regulations to set uniform, dress, and appearance standards at all Gauteng government schools. Those norms must then be applied by school managers."

Ends.
