Dougall says the point of their video was to show that human beings are not genetically coded with racist attitudes. "Children pick up racist ideas from their surroundings," she explains. "They don't say, 'I'm not playing with you since you're black,' because they don't really know about racism."

According to Dougall, education begins with "the younger generation, the roots. And if you grow up with all sorts of cultures that you can experience, you have less bias."

In Sioux Lookout, teenagers at Queen Elizabeth District High School are also fighting racism. Donovan Kakepetum, eighteen, is one of many First Nations students who have moved to Sioux Lookout for secondary education at Queen Elizabeth. Kakepetum says racial divisions are further fuelled by stereotypes. To combat stereotyping, a number of activities with a cross-cultural appeal were organized at the school in commemoration of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, including classroom activities and a concert featuring both local entertainers and a First Nations rap artist from Winnipeg.

Back in Toronto, the Urban Alliance on Race Relations hosted a conference titled Race, Ethnicity and Youth Gangs, at Central Neighbourhood House.

Hana An, twenty-six, a project co-ordinator at the alliance, says the purpose of the conference was to brainstorm solutions to the ever-increasing problem of youth gangs and racism. "We want to tackle all types of issues that racism stems from," says An, who launched the Youth for Diversity project at the conference. This undertaking will allow young people to come up with alternative solutions to these problems, she says.

"Because Toronto is growing so fast, there are rising problems among the diverse groups we represent and an increase in violence and negativity."

Tasneem Alibhai, eighteen, a member of the Scarborough (Greater Toronto Area) Youth Council, says the solution is to encourage youth to mobilize in the empowerment of racial minorities.

"Women didn't have the right to vote at one point here in this country," she says. "But just look at us today and it is evident how much society has progressed in just one century."

Alibhai says more people of Asian and African descent need to fight their way into the mainstream media in order to break down social barriers.

"How many black reporters have you seen on television recently?" she asks. "And how many