

FULL STATEMENT FROM Saloni Rao '20:

There is institutional racism at Yale. It undeniably exists. I have not and would not deny its existence.

When asked "is Yale institutionally racist?" I answered "Yale? no."

In answering this question, what first, mistakenly, came to my mind are the people who make up the Yale College Dean's Office and who I have worked with before and who I believe in - people like Dean Chun, Dean Howard, and Dean Lofton, of Diversity and Faculty Development. I thought of these people, who I would not consider racist, instead of Yale as an institution, its history and its policies, which I do consider racist.

I regret not pushing to further clarify or further considering my answer because I know it hurt so many of my fellow students. For that I apologize. Institutional racism exists at Yale, and the best way to change it is to change who is doing the instituting and to give a voice to those who have not before been heard. This, I feel, is something which I feel is the duty of the YCC and is something that I have and continue to feel passionately about.