

Speak out against racism defend asylum seekers

APPEAL OF THE 150

Over the last year an atmosphere of xenophobia, discrimination and racism has been stirred up against refugees and asylum seekers. Sections of the media directly participate in this, while the Government and Opposition try to out-bid each other in the intolerance of their statements about asylum seekers.

Concern has been expressed from many quarters, particularly including the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees representative in Britain and Bill Morris the General Secretary of the Transport and General Union and the Anglican and Catholic Churches. As a General Election approaches some political parties are again seeking to stir up hostility and racism towards asylum seekers in the hope of some electoral gain.

We therefore pledge to speak out against racism and defend asylum seekers.

- We call for an end to attempts by political parties and leaders to exploit racism for electoral gain.
- We defend the right of refugees to seek asylum in Britain under the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees against all attempts to undermine it.
- We call for legal action against newspapers, which publish material inciting racial hatred.
- We call upon the Government to restore asylum rights by ending the voucher, designated accommodation and compulsory dispersal systems and restoring benefits.

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Speak Out Against Racism – Defend Asylum Seekers is co-ordinated by the National Assembly Against Racism. You can contact the campaign for copies of this poster and to find out about events, literature, badges and other materials by writing to: Speak Out Against Racism – Defend Asylum Seekers, c/o NAAR, 28 Commercial St, London, E1 6LS. Or calling on 020 7247 9907. Or e-mailing to AA_R@compuserve.com

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