

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
AGAINST
RACISM

TUC 2007 newsletter

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One society, many cultures

Britain is a dynamic and successful multicultural society. The positive contribution of different migrant communities in recent decades and over many centuries, including to our public services, and the enrichment of our economy and cultural life, is something to be celebrated.

Together with UNISON, NAAR has recently launched the One Society, Many Cultures campaign, to celebrate this fact and to defend multiculturalism in the face of recent attacks, claiming it is a 'failed experiment' that 'divides rather than unites' and that British society is 'sleepwalking into segregation'.

Britain is actually becoming more integrated, and all the evidence points to the success of Britain's multicultural society.

For example, the TUC's recent study, *The Economics of Migration*, explains how the British economy is benefiting from migrant workers, who pay more in taxes than the value of the public services they receive and that immigration has not depressed jobs or wages. Treasury figures show that immigration is responsible for around 10 per cent of economic growth. Research by academics including Dr Ludi Simpson and Prof Danny Dorling



has demonstrated that society is becoming more integrated, not less.

UNISON has also highlighted the significant role migrant workers play in the public services, where, for example, 58 per cent of new doctors were born overseas and 44,000 overseas nurses worked in the NHS last year alone.

As UNISON General Secretary Dave Prentis, points out 'it's about time that many of the opinion formers woke up to the fact that migrant workers play a vital role in the very fabric of our public services and we should be more supportive and proud of their contribution'.

Our hard-fought-for framework of multiculturalism has been based on mutual respect and the right of people

to lead their lives as they wish, as long as it does no harm to others. Alongside strong action against discrimination, this is the only way to achieve a cohesive, integrated society.

It is attempts to undermine this multicultural framework which create the danger of division, and scapegoating other cultures and ethnic minorities only serves reactionary ideas and fascists such as the BNP.

Our multicultural society should be celebrated. Challenging racism and other barriers that prevent people from playing a full role in society must be prioritised.

● Please see our website for details and information on how you can get involved www.naar.org.uk

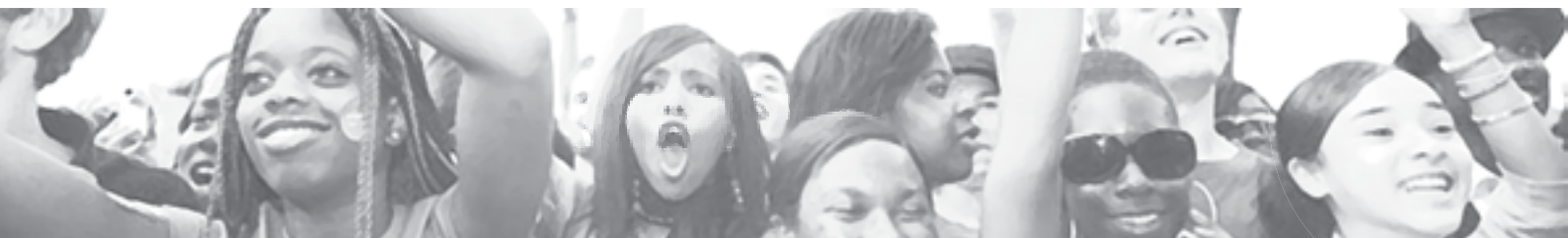


Multiculturalism's contribution to a dynamic society

Labour Party fringe meeting **Tues 25th September 5.45pm**
Bistro Area, Lampeter Hotel, Exeter Park Rd, Bournemouth

Speakers include: Doreen Lawrence OBE; Sadiq Khan MP; Professor Tariq Modood; Dr Edie Freedman; Dr Mohammed Abdul Bari, MCB; Mohammed Azam, NAAR; Claude Maurais MEP; Bev Miller, UNISON (chair)

**NAAR supports
the Unite
Against Fascism
campaign**



Slavery memorial call

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. NAAR is supporting calls from UNESCO, Diane Abbott and Dawn Butler MPs, the Mayor of London and others for the 23rd August to be made an annual national memorial day. The date marks the beginning of the successful great slave rebellion in Haiti. An annual memorial and apology from the Prime Minister would help raise understanding of the central role of Britain's institutions in the barbaric industry, the lead contribution of enslaved Africans in ending it and the continued legacy of racism and global inequality.



Calls for stronger measures against discrimination

Consultation has just closed on the government's Single Equality Green Paper 'A Framework for Fairness: Proposals for a Single Equality Bill', which has been broadly rejected by trade unions, statutory and campaigning equality bodies, for failing to establish a basis for an effective and enforceable equality law. The TUC Congress will discuss the motions particularly critical of the proposals to

water down the existing public sector duty, the lack of better enforcement measures and failure to include public procurement to promote equality.

Proposals in the Green Paper undermine the hard won gains of the last ten years, particularly as a result of the Lawrence Inquiry, and most notably the public sector duties to promote equality, recognising the institutional nature of disadvantage. A move away from that approach, if

enshrined in law, would represent a serious step backwards. The government must now take on board the positive proposals in scores of submissions to the consultation and vastly improve the draft bill.

- Request a copy of the NAAR's submission by emailing info@naar.org.uk. You can also access the submissions from other bodies from the NAAR website on www.naar.org.uk

Stop the fascist BNP

As the fascist BNP continues to wage its campaign to attempt to get a foothold in mainstream politics, NAAR is continuing the campaign against it, as part of Unite Against Fascism, which is organising to challenge the BNP at next year's London Assembly and Mayoral elections, and local council elections around the country. As shown at this year's TUC, UAF continues to get strong support from within the trade unions — which will be vital as the campaign continues.

● To get involved, visit the UAF stall at TUC or www.uaf.org.uk

Make an anti-racist pledge today!

Join NAAR



The National Assembly Against Racism campaigns against racism in all its manifestations. With national black organisations playing a leading role — in alliance with the Jewish and Muslim communities, the trade unions, the student movement, religious groups and many others, NAAR has set about building a mass anti-racist movement uniting all those who believe racism must be fought and not appeased.

Name.....
 Address.....

 Tel..... Email.....

Affiliation rates: Individuals waged: £15 unwaged/students: £3; Organisations Local unfunded: £25; National unfunded/regional/local funded: £50; National trade unions/funded organisations: £100. Please make cheques payable to NAAR and return to: NAAR, 28 Commercial St, London E1 6LS. Tel: 020 7247 9907. Email: info@naar.org.uk Web: www.naar.org.uk