



Joint statement on the London bombings on 7th July



The National Assembly Against Racism and the Muslim Council of Britain condemn the bombings in London on 7 July, and extend sympathy to the friends and families of all those killed, and to all those injured. The appalling attacks indiscriminately targeted all of London's communities and visitors to London from other countries. We echo the words of London Mayor Ken Livingstone, that the attack "was aimed at ordinary, working-class Londoners, black and white, Muslim and Christian, Hindu and Jew, young and old."

We call on all communities across Britain to stand side by side in opposition to these terrorist attacks, ensuring that our diverse communities are united, not divided by these tragic events.

We note that since the terrorist attacks a small minority has been using these appalling events to stir up hatred and target various ethnic and faith communities, particularly the Muslim community. There have been reports of over 300 incidents



reported by the police including the murder of a Pakistani man in Nottingham on Sunday, attacks on mosques in Tower Hamlets, Merton, Telford, Leeds, Bristol, Gloucester and Birkenhead; on a Sikh Temple in Kent, and on the Pakistan Consulate in Bradford.

There have also been reports of attacks on cars, homes and businesses, plus verbal and physical

abuse directed at various ethnic and faith communities, particularly the Muslim community.

The MCB and NAAR condemn these attacks on black and ethnic minority communities and their places of worship and any attempts to divide our society by scapegoating the Muslim community as a whole. We urge all other sections of society to join us in condemning these attacks.

Don't allow the BNP to divide our communities

**By Sabby Dhalu,
Unite Against Fascism**

The terrorist bombings in London on 7 July have been an appalling indiscriminate attack on one of the most multicultural cities in the

world. Claiming many victims and injuring a large number of people, the bombings have been an outrageous attack on our society. These attacks have been followed by a unanimous and strong condemnation across Britain's diverse communities, underlining the need for unity in the

face of attempts to divide our society.

The days following the bombings have seen a rise in racism and Islamophobia including the racist murder of a Pakistani man in Nottingham. In London the police recorded several hundred racial

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incidents in just the first five days after the bombings, ranging from physical attacks and verbal abuse to arson directed mainly at Muslims but also against other minority ethnic communities.

The BNP has attempted to whip up racism in the immediate aftermath of the bombings, issuing an inflammatory leaflet in the Becontree by-election in Barking, blaming the Muslim community in general for the bombings. The BNP hope to gain votes by encouraging hostility towards Muslims. We must urge the media not to give the BNP a platform to express its bigoted views.

The BNP's 2005 general election results confirmed that they are maintaining their advance in British politics and consolidating their vote. They were able to stand 119 candidates, four times the number of seats they stood in 2001. Their total national vote more than quadrupled this year compared with 2001, rising from 47,129 to 192,750 and they saved a record 34 deposits.

Unite Against Fascism urges all those concerned to halt the BNP's advance to get involved in the UAF's campaign in the run up to the 2006 council elections. Within the UAF trade unions, anti-racists and all those opposed to the BNP will be working together to maximise the mobilisation of voters so that the politics of the BNP is rejected. Now it is more important than ever for a united stand against racism and the BNP.

For more information or to get involved, contact unite at:

www.uaf.org.uk
unite@natfhe.org.uk
020 7833 4916



Defend asylum rights



The general election campaign was marked by a hostile climate on asylum and migrants by sections of the press and some politicians.

The mainstream parties claim it is necessary to appease those who are voting for the far right but the reality is that this only serves to legitimise their extremist views. In the run up to the general election, the BNP welcomed the negative debate on asylum creating a "win-win situation" for them. A Guardian/ICM poll found that 1 in 5 ethnic minority voters considered leaving Britain due to the racism they have faced – much of this hostility was attributed to the debate around immigration.

The government currently plans to further restrict appeal rights,

increase deportation and detention, despite a recent Amnesty International report suggesting this policy breaches human rights and could be unlawful. The widely condemned voucher system is being re-introduced to asylum

seekers who have come to the end of the process. There has also been widespread criticism of the erosion of leave to remain in the new asylum bill. Many of these measures are contrary to Britain's international obligations and undermine the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees, which was designed to provide sanctuary for refugees, following the atrocities

of the Holocaust. The myths around asylum and immigration must be challenged.

Download our myths and facts sheet on asylum from **www.naar.org.uk**. Sign up to our "migrants deserve respect" campaign here also.



Justice for Jay Abatan

Jay Abatan, a 42-year old black man was murdered in a racist attack by a gang in Brighton on 24 January 1999, at the end of a night out to celebrate his recent promotion. He was accompanied by a friend and his brother Michael, who were also attacked. Five days later, Jay died in hospital, having sustained severe head injuries. No one has yet been tried for Jay's murder. Six years on, Jay's family continue to campaign for those who killed him to be brought to justice. The family have complained about serious organisational failings in the investigation of the case which have included the police giving good character evidence for the defendants who were brought to court for attacking Michael.

Recent tribunals have also recognised serious inconsistencies in the case such as officers being asked to work on the murder investigation "in their down time".

The family are demanding the release of the report into the conduct of



the case which they have not been allowed access to. The failures around Jay Abatan's murder investigation happened after the publication of the Lawrence Inquiry.

It is essential that the lessons of the Lawrence Inquiry are learnt, and that the institutional racism identified by the inquiry is addressed in cases such as this, in order for the Black community to be treated with justice and equality.

For more information and to sign the petition please visit <http://www.naar.org.uk/family/jay.asp>

Support the law to stop religious hatred



The legislation to outlaw religious hatred should be welcomed. Opponents of the bill have confused the rights to freedom of speech and artistic expression – which will remain – with a right to whip up hatred against people because of their religion, which will be made unlawful. The Bill will see Hindus

and Muslims given equal protection to Jews and Sikhs. The extreme right currently exploits this loophole with the BNP running an "Islam out of Britain" campaign unchallenged. Recent Crown Prosecution Service figures show 50% of religiously aggravated offences were directed against Muslims. This hatred needs to be combated by the law.



Make Poverty History

NAAR supports Make Poverty History, supporting calls for the G8 to address the impact of the west upon poverty in the world. Every single day 30,000 children die because they live in extreme poverty. Nelson Mandela said 'Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.' Debt, poverty and inequality across the world are part of the continuing legacy of colonialism and racism is often used to justify these injustices. The economic and political situation in much of the developing world is at the heart of the international movement of people whether they are migrants or refugees.

Visit:
www.makepovertyhistory.org
for more information.

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

Unite against Racism and Homophobia

NAAR believes that all communities contribute an essential role to the fight against racism. The Lesbian and Gay Coalition Against Racism promotes unity between the Black communities and the Lesbian and Gay community in opposing racism. This is essential in the face of the rise of the far right BNP, whose politics of racism and homophobia threaten both communities. Nailbomber David Copeland attacked the heart of the African-Caribbean, Asian and Lesbian and Gay communities in Brixton, Brick Lane and Soho, attempting to spark a race war and increase support for the BNP. LAGCAR worked with the TUC LGBT network and Unite Against Fascism to leaflet Soho on the anniversary of the nailbombing in April 2005 calling on the Lesbian and Gay community to vote against the BNP in the general election.

LAGCAR was a core supporter of the recent Imaan conference which gave profile to the concerns of the Muslim LGBT community and addressed issues of Islamophobia and homophobia. We also welcome the joint work between the Muslim Council of Britain and Stonewall in calling for a single equalities act, demonstrating that where communities work together, gains can be made for the benefit of both.

The alliance between the Black and Lesbian and Gay communities is critical to having the broadest possible opposition to racism.

For more information contact LAGCAR on 020 7247 9907; www.naar.org.uk/lagcar; lagcar@naar.org.uk. Contact IMAAN via www.imaan.org.uk.

Student Assembly Against Racism



Young people and students have a vital role to play in campaigning against racism and building a future based on equality for all. Young people are often at the sharp end of racism from racist stop and search to violent racist attacks. Sadly young people are also often the perpetrators of racism.

SAAR exists to challenge racism on campus, within education and in the community to ensure that young people are playing an active role in the fight against racism.

For more info: **020 7247 9907**
contactsaar@hotmail.com
www.naar.org.uk/saar

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

Affiliation rates: Individuals waged: £10 unwaged/students: £3; Organisations Local unfunded: £15; National unfunded/regional/local funded: £25 National trade unions/funded organisations: £65. 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