

Model motion - multiculturalism

This (branch/region/conference) notes that over recent months sections of the media and politicians have attempted to discredit multiculturalism by holding blaming it for a variety of social problems.

In reality, multiculturalism is the view that everybody should be able to live their life as they please, with the culture they want and without harming anyone else. Multiculturalism is a reality and a way of life for millions of people across Britain, especially those within African, Asian and Caribbean heritage communities. The alternative is to force everybody to live according to some imposed cultural 'norm'.

A key plank of the attacks on multiculturalism holds that the Black community segregates itself, and is therefore responsible for the deprivation and discrimination that it experiences.

Areas with white majority populations are not – by the same logic – considered to be socially problematic in the same way. This unjust myth has been given credibility by the flawed Commission on Integration and Cohesion.

(Insert name of branch/region/conference) believes that research conducted by Prof Danny Dorling of Sheffield University and Dr Ludi Simpson of Manchester University, who produced a report on integration for the government, actually reveals that the myths about Black communities self-segregating are not true and that integration between Britain's diverse communities has actually increased over the past decade.

In reality, multiculturalism works. London, Leeds, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham are a few examples of culturally diverse and economically successful parts of Britain.

The National Assembly Against Racism (NAAR), with the support of trade unions, like UNISON, has launched a national campaign to defend and promote multiculturalism. This campaign is called: 'One Society, Many Cultures'. It has produced a range of materials including stickers, t-shirts, a web site, leaflets and briefings.

(Insert name of branch/region/conference) believes that the One Society, Many Cultures campaign should be supported and that we should therefore:

- Develop a strategy to take this initiative out to all levels of the union by promoting its materials and inviting speakers;
- Make a donation to NAAR to help with the campaign and/or purchase materials;
- Encourage individual members to join NAAR and play an active role in the defence of multiculturalism;
- Publicise the campaign's initiatives where appropriate;
- Promote the multiculturalism quiz to members;
- Circulate and promote the parliamentary EDM and lobby local MPs to support it.