

New national campaign against the BNP launched:

Unite Against Fascism



Unite Against Fascism is a national campaign with the objective of alerting British society to the rising threat of the extreme right gaining an electoral foothold in this country and uniting the broadest possible spectrum of society to counter this threat, in particular from the British National Party in June 2004 European Parliament, local government and London Assembly elections and beyond.

The campaign has been initiated by the National Assembly Against Racism, the Anti-Nazi League, MPs, trade unions, faith and community organisations. We aim to bring together all those who oppose the BNP. The campaign will urge people to use their vote to stop the BNP.

We are fully aware that stemming the rise of the racist and fascist far right is an enormous task and that the broadest possible base of support and the maximum unity are essential to success. That is why the campaign is focussed upon this single objective.

The campaign is planning a number of activities in the run up to the June 2004 elections, including advertising in national newspapers, rallies, leaflets and posters. Please sign up to the statement, get your organisations affiliated and contribute generously to the campaign.

Unite Against Fascism statement

'For evil to triumph all that is necessary is that good people do nothing'

We call, as a matter of the greatest urgency, for the broadest unity against the alarming rise in racism and fascism in Britain today.

The Fascist British National Party averaged 17 per cent of the vote in the seats they contested in the last local government elections and now has a record 16 councillors across Britain. They are poised to field candidates in the 2004 European Parliament, local government elections and the next general election, in what they hope will be the biggest electoral assault ever mounted by the far right in this country.

The BNP is now trying to present itself as a 'respectable' political party. In fact they are a fascist party. Currently they seek to attract votes on the basis of racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and the vilification of refugees and asylum seekers. But fascists also stand for the expulsion of Black and Asian people from this country, the destruction of the trade unions and the elimination of basic democratic rights.

We believe that this dangerous situation requires a new and united response from all those dedicated to freedom and democracy. Now is the time for all of us to combine our forces and unite in a broad and common front against this common threat.

Name.....

Organisation.....

Position (if any).....

Address.....

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Email.....

Tel.....

Affiliation fee £..... Donation £.....

Affiliation rates: Individuals waged £10, unwaged/students £3

Organisations local £20, regional/national unfunded £40, national trade unions and other national organisations under 100,000 members £100, over 100,000 members £200

Please return to: Unite! c/o NATFHE Head Office, 27 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JP. Email: unite@natfhe.org.uk

Tel: 020 7833 4916

New government attack on asylum rights: the new bill must be opposed

The recent Queen's speech included yet another set of proposals by the government. The measures outlined raise very grave concern about the continuing attacks on asylum rights. Recently, the Home Secretary announced a welcome amnesty to 15,000 asylum seeker families. Recent figures show the halving of asylum applications. These figures are being celebrated, despite the latest Home Office statistics showing that the largest number of applications continue to come from nations with well-recorded recent histories of conflict, persecution or human rights abuses. The policies show that the government's actual agenda is to continue eroding asylum rights in order to appease the Tory party and the right wing press. New measures in the bill include:

- Up to two years imprisonment for asylum seekers without travel documentation.
- Ending support to families whose applications have been turned down if they refuse to leave the country.
- Increasing Immigration Officers' powers to arrest, entry, search and seizure on suspicion of offences such as bigamy, forgery and counterfeiting.
- Reducing appeals to a single tier, despite the fact that over 20% of asylum seekers are given leave to remain as a result of the current appeals process
- Electronically tagging failed applicants.

The government plans to restrict legal aid for asylum seekers and immigration matters, which will leave asylum seekers without adequate access to legal support, making their applications more likely to fail. The government is also planning to take children away from destitute asylum seekers whose applications have been turned and place them in care. The Children's Society raised concerns that this would breach fundamental elements of the Human Rights Act and may contradict the 1989 Children Act. NAAR will be opposing these measures vigorously. The first step is the CALAC public meeting in Parliament. See details below.

Coalition Against Legal Aid Cuts - A Fair Hearing For All?

Stop Legal Aid Cuts for asylum and immigration work

6.30-8.30pm, Tuesday 9th December Grand Committee Room, House of Commons Speakers include: David Lammy MP, Under Secretary of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs; Karen Chouhan, Director, 1990 Trust and NAAR, Courtney Griffiths QC; Refugee speaker

Justice for Mikey Powell – No More Deaths in Custody

Mikey Powell died in police custody on September 7th 2003. The police arrived at Mikey's mother's house, ran him over, attacked him with batons and sprayed him with CS gas. He was dragged into the back of a police van and died ninety minutes later. NAAR is supporting Mikey's family who are calling for a full independent inquiry to know precisely how and why Mikey died. The Campaign is holding a tribute dance to fundraise for the campaign at the Breeze Club, Moseley, Birmingham, 20th December 9.30-late Admission £5 All profits to the campaign for info: mikey_powellfriends@yahoo.com 0774 008 3915

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