

Unite black, white and Muslim workers against racism and fascism!

ORGANISING AGAINST EDL RACISM AND BNP FASCISM

A conference to discuss building a working-class anti-racist and anti-fascist network

Sounding the alarm

The growth of the British National Party and the emergence of the 'English Defence League' have sounded the alarm for all those who oppose racism and fascism. What to do about the fascists and racists of these two organisations is a major topic of debate in the national press, in our trade unions and in the wider community. It is clear that the existing anti-fascist campaigns – Unite Against Fascism and Searchlight – are not up to the job of stopping them.

Organising

We believe that working-class, community based campaigns are the best way to organise. This means building groups that can respond to local BNP organisation: where the BNP organise for hate, we must organise for solidarity. The growth in support for racist and fascist organisations and the experience of recent mobilisations – Codnor, Liverpool, Harrow, Manchester, Leeds and Nottingham – demonstrate the need for a different sort of anti-fascist, anti-racist movement.

Politics

Simply pointing out that the BNP and EDL are racist and fascist is not enough. To a great extent, people are attracted to these organisations because they offer an 'alternative' to the failed policies of successive governments. We need to articulate our own ideas and the ideas of our wider movements – we need to talk about and organise for working-class politics.

Racism

The BNP and EDL feed off wide-spread and largely unchallenged racism in society. This racism has not magically emerged in the heat of an economic crisis; but the crisis has brought it out of the woodwork. We need to challenge and educate against this racism whether it be against the immigrant or other minority groups.

Solidarity

Solidarity can beat back the BNP and EDL. Working in solidarity means organising open and democratic campaigns. It means sharing our ideas and experience and supporting each other when action needs to be taken. If you want to discuss these ideas further and if you want to help organise along these lines, come to conference.

Continued overleaf ...



Called by **Nottingham Unity Committee**: a group of anti-racists, anti-fascists, trade unionists and community activists.



Conference details...

27th March 2010

11am – 3pm

**Queens Walk
Community Centre,
Queens Walk, The
Meadows,
Nottingham**

**(10 minutes walk from
Nottingham train
station)**

Supported by Notts' Stop the BNP | nottmstopbnp.wordpress.com | and South Yorks' Stop the BNP | systopthebnp.com

Ideas and action to combat racism and the BNP:

Notts Stop the BNP and South Yorkshire Stop the BNP primarily campaign against the British National Party. We do this by proposing positive, working class anti-racist politics against the BNP's politics of hate. We combine this with calling demonstrations and organising action against the BNP when they attempt to organise. The 'English Defence League' pose a new threat to all those who believe in democracy, equality and solidarity. They are racists who pose a real physical threat. That's why Notts Stop the BNP oppose and organises against them.

Only a class-struggle anti-fascist movement can beat the fascists back!

The need to combine anti-racism, politics and solidarity together with local, democratic organisation is pressing. These basic starting points should be obvious to all. This is not so:

- We have witnessed bureaucratic manipulations and decisions being imposed on demonstrators and local campaigns, in particular by *Unite Against Fascism*. It often appears that these moves are aimed at placating the police and authorities by preventing effective opposition to the fascists. In fact, *UAF's* actions are little more than an effort to maintain a strangle-hold on our movement.
- Both *UAF* and the *Hope Not Hate* campaigns have at times issued demands that the police ban the EDL's racist provocations and the BNP's attempts to organise. These calls are a major error. In Luton, where the EDL was banned, anti-racists and anti-fascists were also prevented from demonstrating – prevented from calling for anti-racism and solidarity against the bigots. We cannot rely on the police to defend us; we need to mobilise in our own defence.
- Existing national anti-fascist and anti-racist campaigns receive thousands of pounds from trade unions but do little to mobilise union members and workers more generally. The trade union and labour movement is a massive, untapped resource. We need a campaign that organises and mobilises large-scale working class action.
- The racists and fascists are growing by exploiting real issues – job losses, cuts, privatisation – and linking them to largely unchallenged racist and nationalist sentiments. The disastrous results of the continuing economic crisis have been imposed on workers and the poor by the bosses and the 'mainstream' parties that largely represent their interests. These parties are all guilty of legitimising racism through their persecution of migrants and asylum seekers. Only a movement that unites workers – black and white, British born or not – on a consistent political basis can undercut the fascists' demagoguery.

We need an open, democratic, network of organisations and activists committed to mobilising the working class, communities and minority groups against the racists and fascists.

We call on labour movement bodies, community organisations, migrants' rights groups and anti-racist and anti-fascist campaigns who broadly agree with us to send groups or delegates to the conference to help build such a network. We also ask for support from those in *UAF* and *Hope Not Hate* who are unhappy with their organisations current direction and who want to talk things through.

Against the BNP's and other racists politics we call for 'Jobs and Homes NOT Racism' and campaign for:

- Free, equal quality education services for all —with sufficient money to deal with the crisis in schools and colleges; reverse privatisation.
- The restoration of dignity and rights at work; repeal anti-union laws.
- An end to poverty wages and jobs with no prospects.
- A higher minimum wage, protect wages from inflation.
- Increased taxes on wealthy millionaires and near millionaires.
- Expanded decent, low rental council housing for all.
- Support for communities with services, recreational facilities and a sense of hope that can keep young people away from crime and drugs.
- Independent working class candidates and political representation.
- In short: a plan for the economic crisis that puts the interests of working people, not the bankers, first!

If you agree with us or want to discuss our ideas, get in touch!

