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Stopping the BNP and fascism in Europe

Unite Against Fascism
national conference

Organised by: **Unite Against Fascism and Love Music Hate Racism**

Sponsored by:



Agenda

9.30am–10am

Registration

10.00–11.30am

Recession, racism and stopping the BNP/ Recession and the rise of fascism

Congress Hall
Chair: Hugh Lanning

Speakers: Megan Dobney – welcome message

Frances O'Grady – TUC
Edie Friedman – JCORE
Dr Abdul Bari – MCB
Mark Meredith – Mayor of Stoke
Weyman Bennett – UAF joint-National Secretary
Tony Kearns – Deputy Gen Sec CWU

11.30am–1.00pm Workshops

Music against Racism and Fascism, organised by LMHR

Congress Hall
Chair: Bunny La Rouch

Speakers:

John McClure Reverend and Makers
Get Cape Wear Cape Fly
Low Key
Lee Billingham – LMHR

Campaigning against the BNP in the Euro elections

Council Chamber
Chair: Steve Hart – Unite the union

Speakers:

Weyman Bennett – UAF
Malcolm Clarke – Make Votes Count

Racism and rebutting myths

Room 2, 5th Floor
Chair: Donna Guthrie – UAF

Speakers:

Lee Jasper – NAAR
Anindya Bhattacharyya – Journalist

1.00pm–2.00pm

Lunch

2.00pm–4.00pm

Effective Strategies for stopping the BNP in the European elections

Congress Hall
Chair: Sabby Dhalu

Speakers:

Mark Serwotka – General Secretary PCS
Wes Streeting – President NUS
Martin Smith – LMHR
Peter Hain MP
Glyn Ford MEP

Guest speaker:

Ennio Odino – Italian partisan and survivor of Mauthausen Nazi concentration camp

Mark Serwotka is the elected General Secretary of the Britain's largest civil service union, the Public & Commercial Services Union (PCS). He was elected to the post of general secretary in December 2000 and in 2005, was re-elected for a 2nd term.



"For trade unions the deepening crisis means we have to strengthen collective organisation and build solidarity. But there will be other voices. Just look at how the BNP have tried to infiltrate the dispute at the Lyndsey refinery. It is essential that trade unions support Unite Against Fascism and do everything possible to prevent the BNP making gains in the European elections."

Megan Dobney is the Regional Secretary of SERTUC. The Southern and Eastern Regional Council of the Trades Union Congress.



"This national conference is an essential part of the fight against the BNP – particularly now in the run up to the elections to the European. The key to defeating the BNP in these elections is twofold: One – to spread the work that every vote counts and to fight to win the maximum voter registration – and then the maximum turnout. Two – to work in conjunction with all those who oppose fascism. Unity is Strength. Let's demonstrate that on 4th June."

Muhammad Abdul Bari has been the Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain since June 2006. Prior to that, he served as the Council's Deputy-Secretary General for four years.



"The Muslim Council of Britain supports the excellent work by UAF who educate and inform people about the rise of the far right within our society. It is essential that as an effective coalition we expose the misleading information made by far right groups. Together with UAF we support the campaigns and initiatives to stop all forms of bigotry, discrimination and xenophobia."

Introduction

By Ken Livingstone

We face at least the most severe economic crisis since the Second World War and quite possibly a depression on the scale of the 1930s. Racists and fascists will naturally try to exploit this situation to divide society on the basis of race and religion, setting one section of working people against another. This has always been the cutting edge of the fascists, including when they wear suits as with the modern incarnation of fascism in the British National Party.



That is why we need a campaign to promote united action against the fascists. This must make no concessions to racism and bring together the communities who are the immediate targets of racists and fascists such as Black and Asian people, Muslims and Jews, in unity with young people, the trade unions, the broad labour movement and every supporter of human freedom in an alliance of the vast majority of society.

The goal is very simple: to expose and utterly defeat the fascists so that we never repeat the horrors fascism brought the world in the 1930s and '40s.

Welcome

Welcome to the Unite Against Fascism conference. The British National Party is aiming to win seats in the European election. The fascist BNP needs to secure just 8% to get elected to the European Parliament in the regional seats North West, West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humberside. In the North West where the fascist leader Nick Griffin is standing they may need a swing of just 2.4% to get elected. We have to redouble our efforts to make sure they do not rip apart a multicultural and multiracial society.

This conference is a call to arms, to unite all the different communities facing the threat of fascism and racism. Each session will call people from the floor — please follow the chair's directions as this enables us to get as many speakers in as possible. Once again, thank you very much for attending the conference and hope that it's useful to yourself and your organisations. Together we can stop the fascist BNP.

Weyman Bennett

Conference organiser
Joint Secretary Unite Against Fascism

Unite Against Fascism statement

"The world is a dangerous place to live in; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it."

— Albert Einstein. Refugee to Britain from the Holocaust in Nazi Germany

As a matter of the greatest urgency, we are calling for the broadest possible unity against the alarming rise of racism and fascism in Britain today.

Over the last decade, racism and Islamophobia in society have grown. As a result, we have seen an increase in racist violence and attacks on multiculturalism. This has culminated in the rise of the far right and fascist parties, in particular the British National Party (BNP).

The BNP is trying to present itself as a 'respectable' political party. In fact it is a fascist party. As history shows, fascism stands for the total annihilation of whole communities, freedoms and democratic rights.

Currently, the BNP is seeking to attract votes on the basis of racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, homophobia and the vilification of refugees and asylum seekers. The BNP stands for the expulsion of Black and Asian people from this country, the destruction of the trade unions, the promotion of violence and hatred and the elimination of basic democratic rights.

The BNP now has 55 councillors across Britain and in May 2008 gained a seat on the London Assembly, polling 130,174 votes — 5.33%.

The BNP is poised to field candidates in the June 2009 European Parliamentary and local government elections, in what they hope will be the biggest electoral assault ever mounted by the far right in this country. The collapse of UKIP and the current economic crisis mean that there is a real danger that the BNP may gain seats onto the European parliament in these elections. This would represent a major electoral breakthrough for the BNP and would allow them huge resources, influence, greater respectability, and the ability to work with other far right and fascist parties in Europe.

We believe that this dangerous situation requires a strong and united response from all those dedicated to freedom and democracy. We must combine our forces and unite in a broad and common front against this common threat.

Registration

You will be issued with named ID. We ask you to keep this sticker visible whilst on conference premises.

Toilet facilities

Toilets are situated on lower ground floor behind the staircase, near registration desk.

Refreshments and Snacks

These are available to purchase in the foyer outside the Congress Hall during the day.

Food

Food will be sold in the Marble Hall on the ground floor from 12.30pm and 3.00pm.

Disabled Access

Congress Centre treats the needs of disabled delegates and speakers with great importance. Facilities for the disabled include:

- Raised step treads outside the building to assist blind delegates, with entrance ramps for wheelchair users
- All lifts accommodate standard wheelchairs and have low-level buttons which are also in Braille.
- Congress Hall has an entrance ramp for wheelchair users and there is a further ramp onto the stage allowing disabled speakers easy access to the podium
- All doorways are wide enough to accommodate standard wheelchairs

• Disabled men's and ladies' toilets are located on the lower ground floor by the cloakroom and registration area, conveniently located on the same floor as Congress Hall, the foyer and the Congress Suites. A further disabled toilet is located on the fifth floor near the Council Chamber

- Most rooms benefit from a hearing loop system; Congress Hall has an infra-red hearing loop
- In addition BSL interpreters is available on request, please advise registration desk staff.

Meeting Rooms

An agenda is enclosed with this pack with details of the room where workshops will be held.

In summary:

Congress Hall — lower ground floor

Council Chamber — fifth floor

Meeting room 2 — fifth floor.

Lifts will be signed with directions to rooms

Exhibition Stalls

There will be stalls in and around the main Congress Hall and in the Congress Suite situated on the lower ground floor.

Photography

No unauthorised photography will be permitted at this event. Any queries should be referred to the press and speakers desk. Authorised photographers will clearly display ID issued by UAF.

Billy Hayes holds the position of General Secretary (GS) of the Communication Workers Union (CWU). The CWU is the seventh largest union in Britain with around 260,000 members. Billy is Treasurer of UAF.



"The UAF Conference is a crucial opportunity to plan the campaign against the BNP in the European elections in June. There will be a big attendance, representing the breadth of anti-fascist campaigning — the key to stopping the BNP from winning MEPs and councillors."

Dr. Edie Friedman founded the Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE) in 1976, of which she is now the director.



"We know from history that racism and fascism grow when minority groups are stigmatised. As in the fight against fascism in the 1930's, building alliances between different groups is a necessary ingredient if we are to be more effective in combating racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and the racism which is directed at asylum seekers and refugees."

Born in Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent on 21 August 1964 and educated in the city, Mark Meredith became the first Labour Elected Mayor of the City of Stoke-on-Trent following the city's second mayoral election on May 5th 2005.



Love Music Hate Racism Carnival 2009 will take place at Britannia Stadium, Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday 30th May.

Frances O'Grady became TUC Deputy General Secretary in January 2003, the first woman ever to hold this post. Frances has lead responsibility for a wide range of key areas of policy development across the TUC's work including trade union recruitment and organisation, inter-union relations and TUC services to members.



"The BNP is using the recession to sow the politics of division and hate among working people. The coming European elections give us a challenge to ensure that the extreme right do not gain a further foothold in our political structures. The TUC is working with unions and anti racist organisations to step up the campaign to ensure that the extreme right do not get an MEP elected to the European Parliament."

Wes Streeting is currently President of the National Union of Students and has sat on the organisation's former governing body, the NEC, for 5 consecutive years.



"This year will see the very real possibility of the BNP winning greater control of local councils and even gaining seats in the European Parliament. The work of Unite Against Fascism has never been more urgent or more critical, which is why we're proud to be supporters. We urge students to get involved both nationally and locally by setting up UAF activity on every campus and in every community."

Unite Against Fascism

Financial Appeal 2009

We need to act urgently to stop the Nazi BNP. Please donate now!

The British National Party (BNP) is planning to stand in the European elections in June 2009 and will be organising activities across the country. The BNP is a fascist organisation, and its leader Nick Griffin was convicted in 1998 of incitement to racial hatred after denying that the Holocaust — the murder of 6 million Jews and millions of others — took place. We believe that the BNP's intention is to whip up racism and division in our multicultural and multiethnic society.

Recent votes received in several regions, including the North West (where Nick Griffin is heading the BNP list), Yorkshire and Midlands, indicate a real danger of the BNP gaining seats to the European Parliament. This would represent a major electoral breakthrough and would allow them huge resources, influence, greater respectability, and the ability to work with other far right and fascist parties in Europe.

The BNP have recently launched a racist campaign with a pamphlet entitled "Racism Cuts Both Ways". This is an attempt to build what they hope will be a racist agenda during the forthcoming economic crisis. In the present economic crisis there is a danger that, as in the 1930s, the beneficiaries could be the Nazis.

In the past year, UAF has organised mobilisations across the country against the fascist BNP, working with local and regional communities and organisations. UAF has helped to mobilise thousands to oppose the BNP and encourage people to get organised and build campaigns in advance of the 2009 elections.

Please donate funds now to help stop the BNP gaining seats in the European elections. This will help fund days of action, rallies, large events and press adverts to reach millions in the run-up to these elections.

	£5	can help pay for 100 anti-BNP election leaflets.
	£20	£20 can help buy stall material for an anti-BNP campaign stall.
	£50	could pay for 2000 election leaflets in a target region like the North West.
	£100	could help towards a news advert to urge people to register to vote and use that vote to stop the BNP.

Please ask your branch or regional organisation to:

- make a donation to this appeal
- affiliate and to take out a regular standing order to UAF.

You can also help us personally by:

- raising funds from friends and colleagues with a UAF workplace collection sheet
- taking out a regular standing order membership to the UAF.
- We need to act urgently to stop the Nazi BNP. Please donate now!

Kind Regards,

Billy Hayes

Treasurer, Unite Against Fascism



Donate

To donate, fill out the form below and send (cheques payable to "Unite Against fascism") to UAF, PO Box 36871, London WC1X 9XT.

Or donate online at www.uaf.org.uk.

- £5 donation (this will pay for 100 leaflets)
- £20 donation
- £50 donation
- £100 donation

or choose an amount £

Name

Organisation

Address

.....

.....

Phone

Email

- I want to join UAF
- I want to help with local activities against the BNP
- I want to help fund an event in my regional area

Unite Against Fascism
Unite, PO Box 36871, London WC1X 9XT
020 7833 4916
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www.uaf.org.uk

Books to Fight Fascism

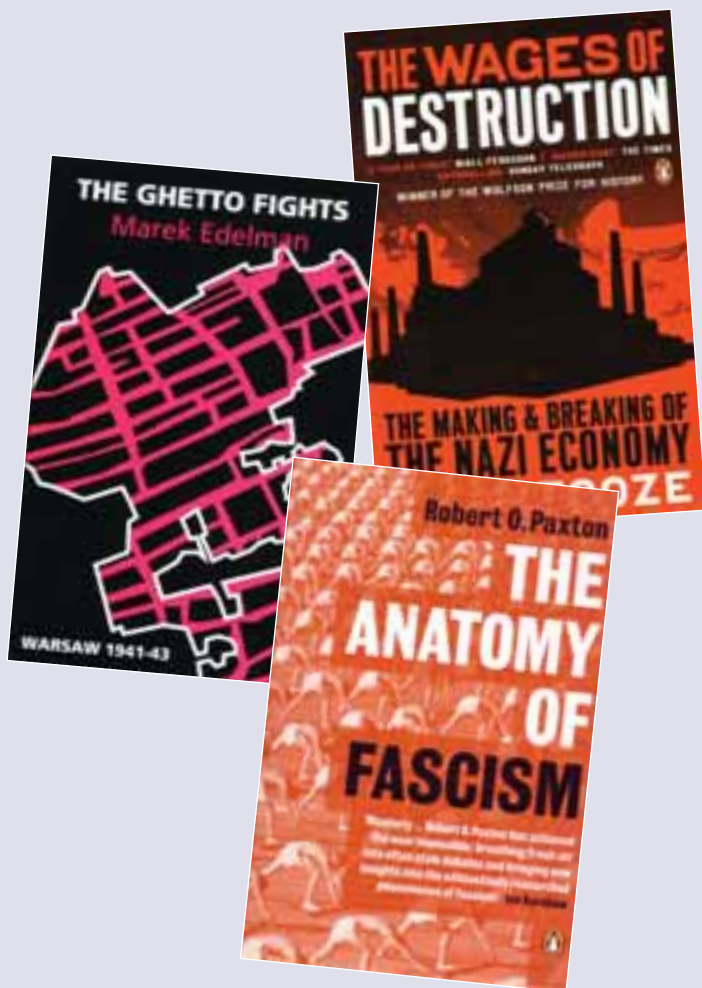
Visit the Bookmarks stall at today's conference

Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop, is the TUC's official bookseller.

We have been providing a book service to the labour movement for over 30 years. Visit our shop for our full range of books on everything from US history to progressive children's literature for all ages.

Bookmarks shop is located just round the corner from the TUC at 1 Bloomsbury Street, WC1B 3QE (Tel: 0207 637 1848)

Or visit our website at www.bookmarks.uk.com — we provide a full mail order service to anywhere in the world.



Glyn Ford has been a Labour Member of the European Parliament since 1984 and has been Chair of the Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the Rise of Racism and Fascism. In 1990, he was the rapporteur for the second Committee of Inquiry into Racism and Xenophobia.



"It is vital to mobilise people to combat the threat of the British National Party. It is essential that Labour trade unionists unite with other anti-fascist groups to prevent this from happening. I do not wish to see a BNP MEP joining the likes of Jean-Marie Le Pen in Europe, a man who believes that Buchenwald concentration camp was built by the Americans after the Second World War."

The 'reverend' and front man in the band 'Reverend and the Makers', Jon McClure has recently been part of a new collusion helping to form the supergroup 'Mongrel'. Other acts associated with Mongrel include Artic Monkeys and Baby Shambles.



"The BNP might be wearing suits today, but make no mistake, they are the same old Nazis. It is important that we recognise this and combat it."

Martin Smith is a founding member of UAF and steering committee member of LMHR. Was ANL organiser in east London at time of defeat of Derek Beackon and the BNP in East London in the early 1990s.



"This June the Nazi BNP is going to go all out to win a Euro seat. If we are going to stop them we need maximum unity and a mass campaign to expose them. The UAF conference is going to be vital if we are going to unite black, Asian and white people together to drive out the BNP from our communities."

Peter Hain's record of political campaigning stretches back over nearly four decades. He was a leading campaigner against racism in Britain, and in 1977 was a founder member of the Anti-Nazi League which was successful in confronting and then effectively destroying the National Front.



Peter Hain is Labour MP for Neath and a former Labour Government Minister.

"Progressives have a moral duty to fight fascism wherever it rears its ugly head. The Anti-Nazi League played a leading role in helping to end the evil of the National Front. Now we must unite to combat the BNP racists and their ideology of hate — that's why it's important that we build Unite Against Fascism today."

Weyman Bennett is a long standing anti-fascist activist, having been involved in the campaigns led by the Anti-Nazi League (ANL) against the National Front. He is joint secretary of UAF and National Organiser of the ANL.



"Five years ago we launched UAF as a broad based coalition of people coming together to stand united against the fascist British National Party. These 5 years have taught us that, while we cannot be complacent, with the right campaigning we can defeat the BNP. In times of recession the BNP will scapegoat immigrants and asylum seekers. We must work to deny them a platform for their fascist views."

model motion

unite against fascism

This union/conference/region/branch notes:

1. The BNP's politics of hate and division threaten the freedoms and safety of those they would see annihilated — Jews, black people, trade unionists, Muslims and all ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, disabled people and anybody who stands for a democratic society.
2. That the fascist BNP through its acolytes supports the Redwatch website which contains photos, names addresses and personal details of trade unionists and anti-fascists and those opposing the BNP, along with threats of violence against them. Some of those targeted by Redwatch have been attacked and intimidated.
3. That the full membership list for the fascist BNP was released on the web and this list identifies that some of the fascist BNP members are teachers, lecturers, prison officers, serving police officers, nurses and other public sector workers.
4. The BNP now has 55 Councillors across Britain and in the recent May elections gained a seat on the London Assembly polling 130,174 votes - 5.33% - just crossing the 5% hurdle needed to get elected.
5. That Unite Against Fascism has called for there to be no place for fascist and racist BNP members in public services and that they should be sacked.

This union believes:

1. That it is in the public interest to identify BNP members if we are to prevent abuses. Not least that these people may have access to sensitive information and are in positions of influence
2. It is important that every BNP member is identified because of the nature of this organisation that espouses the politics of race hate and division and targets communities with its vicious race hatred.
3. It is not acceptable to have fascists who deny the Holocaust and want to see a race war teaching in our schools, working in the police force or in the prison service and there is no place for them in public services.
4. That racism divides workers and has no place within the trade union movement. Trades union organisations that have expelled fascists from membership are to be congratulated.

This union resolves:

1. To call on the union nationally to campaign for the removal of BNP members in public services.
2. To affiliate to Unite Against Fascism
3. To support Unite Against Fascism campaign to Stop the fascist BNP in the forthcoming European election in June 2009.
4. To make a donation to the Unite Against Fascism
5. To circulate Unite Against Fascism leaflets and other materials and co-operate with other trades unions and organisations in providing resources and support

Unite Against Fascism, PO Box 36871, London WC1X 9XT
020 7833 4916 www.uaf.org.uk unite@ucu.org.uk



membership form



Join UAF today and receive regular updates and information on how to get involved in the campaign

**Standing order special offer:
join with a £5 standing order and receive a free t-shirt!**

unite against fascism

Please return this form to

Unite Against Fascism, PO Box 36871, London WC1X 9XT

Join:

Membership fees

Standard £10 per year, **concessions** £3 per year
Organisations local £20, regional/national unfunded £40,
national trade unions and other national organisations
under 100,000 members £100, over 100,000 members £200

Name

Organisation

Address

Postcode

Phone

E-mail

I am paying by [please tick box]

- cheque for £10 (standard)
 cheque for higher amount [please specify amount]
- cheque for £3 (concessions)
 standing order
Make cheques payable to Unite Against Fascism

Signed Date __/__/__

Standing order mandate (please give as generously as you can)
Filling this out will enable us to set up a monthly standing order
with your bank. Standing orders can be cancelled at any time
simply by informing your bank.

I wish to pay Unite Against Fascism by standing order [please tick]
£2 £5 £10 £15 £20 £_____
per month

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**Please pay HSBC Bank plc, King's Cross, 31 Euston Road,
London NW1 2ST; account name Unite Against Fascism, sort
code 40-04-07, account number 51336460, for the credit of
Unite Against Fascism, the sum of the value indicated above**

Signed Date __/__/__

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