

unite against fascism

appeal to media workers, June 2009 – www.uaf.org.uk – unite@ucu.org.uk



Why Nazi BNP should have no place in our democratic culture

The presence of two British National Party members in the European parliament poses a threat to all of us. The BNP is a fascist organisation that stands in elections in order to garner a veneer of respectability and legitimisation. It uses that respectability to further its real agenda: whipping up race hatred, smashing up trade unions and destroying every last vestige of democracy.

The fact that there are now two BNP Euro MPs will lead to specific pressures on journalists and media workers. Editors and managers will argue that the BNP should now be treated as if it were a legitimate political voice. They will put pressure on media workers to grant the BNP a platform. This could mean interviews with leading BNP figures, invitations onto “Question Time” style panel debates, or even misguided attempts at “exposing” the BNP that end up merely sensationalising them.

History shows what happens when fascist parties are allowed to worm their way into the political and media establishment. They use the platforms they are granted to consolidate their presence in the political mainstream, normalise their racist arguments, pull the political spectrum to the right and build their organisations on the ground. As they grow, so do the pressures on people to capitulate to them. The danger today is that the BNP breaks through the “cordon sanitaire” to become a regular fixture in our media.

That is why Unite Against Fascism urges all media workers to do everything in their power to deny the fascist BNP a platform and to exclude them from our democratic culture. The BNP is not legitimate political voice and treating it as if it were one is both futile and dangerous. A party whose core programme is the elimination of all black and Asian people from this country, a party whose leaders are Holocaust deniers and Hitler worshippers, should not be granted a space to preach its doctrine of hate.

We also urge journalists working on BNP-related stories to clearly identify the party as a racist and fascist organisation, to challenge the lies and myths the BNP peddles, and to avoid at all costs simply repeating BNP claims uncritically or recycling its press releases. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to stand up to fascism and race hatred – and media workers have a special duty to help stop the Nazi BNP.

Come to Unite Against Fascism’s emergency national conference against the BNP on **Saturday 18 July** at Manchester Central Hall. Go to www.uaf.org.uk for more details. To register phone UAF on **020 7801 2782** or email unite@ucu.org.uk

