

Motion in support of:

**“Coalition against racism – Unite to stop the BNP”**

UBU General meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2002-10-25

**This Union Believes:**

- 1) A year after disturbances in the north, the British National Party (BNP) sought to further divide communities in areas such as Oldham and Burnley by standing candidates in the Council elections of 2002.
- 2) The BNP promote racism and violent attacks in the communities where they are active. In 1993 when a BNP councillor, Derek Simpson, was elected in Tower Hamlets, London, racist attacks increased by 300% in six months.
- 3) The leader of the BNP, Nick Griffin has publicly declared his ambitions for an “All White Britain”, whilst their Youth Officer Mark Collett (Leeds Uni) has published materials outlining how the BNP can get involved in NUS, by encouraging their members to run as Sabbatical Officers, take over clubs and societies and go to NUS conference.
- 4) Votes for the BNP are increasing, in the 67 Council Seats it contested at the 2002 local elections, the BNP received an average 16% - whilst in Burnley one in three of those who voted cast a vote for racism.
- 5) Only 53.2% of the electorate turned out to vote at the Burnley Council elections.

**This Union Further Believes:**

- 1) The “Unite to Stop the BNP” campaign was established in 2001 as a response to the BNP’s electoral strategy.
- 2) The National Assembly Against Racism (NAAR), The Trades Union Congress (TUC), and the Coalition Against Racism lead the broad based campaign. It has support from all the mainstream Political Parties, Community groups, Religious Organisations, prominent individuals and key Black Activists.
- 3) The sole aim of the campaign is to prevent the BNP getting elected. In Oldham, where the campaign was based last year, none of the five BNP candidates were returned, due to the pressure and the work of the Coalition and its supporters.
- 4) The NUS have anti-racism as a priority campaign this year and the leadership of NUS endorses the work of the coalition.
- 5) Oldham councillor Mohammed Azam has stated that students played a crucial role in defeating the BNP in Oldham. A number of Students from Bradford Union were involved in the campaign and worked in Bradford, Burnley and Oldham in the run up to the elections.
- 6) Two of the Burnley Council seats are up for election in 2003, whilst Oldham will be holding “All Out” elections in 2004.
- 7) The coalition will be working again at both of these elections to prevent the BNP being elected to more Councils.

**This Union Resolves:**

- 1) To support the Campaign to “Unite to Stop the BNP”, and send a letter of support to the Coalition Against Racism.
- 2) To promote the Coalition within our Union and have information about the work of the Coalition and campaigning against the BNP available.
- 3) To actively promote the Coalition launch rally in Burnley on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2002, and assist with transport to get Bradford students to and from the venue.
- 4) To encourage students to get involved in the campaigning work in Bradford, Burnley and Oldham in the run-up to the elections, and assist with transport.

Aliyyah Balson  
Usman Zaman  
Rizwaan Ahmed  
Shazeb Ashraf  
Susannah Davies  
David Curran