

Welcome to the first issue of the UCU Anti-fascist newsletter. It is written for all UCU members interested in fighting the rise of far right groups such as the BNP and EDL and to instead celebrate and promote the richness of all cultures.

Our anti-fascist campaigning page is now up and running on the UCU website. Lots more information will be added in the coming months. If you have ideas on the page, for additional information, or for links we should provide, please let us know! See it at www.ucu.org.uk/4546

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Principles of Trade Unionism

The University and College Union stands firm with the trade union movement to oppose all forms of prejudice, harassment and oppression. Our rules set out this commitment to equality, justice and the right to organise in defence of our members. We believe that the doctrine of fascism represents the opposite of these values. Where we value diversity, fascist organisations seek to divide on the grounds of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and disability.

Our Structures

The politics of hate does not belong in UCU or the wider trade union movement.

UCU Rules 6.1.1 as amended in 2008 states:

'UCU will refuse membership to or expel from existing membership, any person who is a known member or activist of any extreme right wing political organisation, including the BNP and National Front, where the organisations aims, objectives and principles are contrary to those of UCU'.

UCU celebrates the richness and diversity of our membership. We encourage the development and involvement of networks for our black members, women members, LGBT members and disabled members. We have a history of successful organising and campaigning to prevent our universities and colleges becoming breeding grounds for fascist activity.

Our Successes

All educational institutions are duty bound by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act to promote good relations between people of different racial groups. There is a public sector duty to promote equality in respect of disability, gender and race, which applies to universities and colleges. UCU does not believe that fascist organisations have the right to claim their activities are an exercise of academic freedom. We are completely in favour of freedom of speech except where it leads to incitement to attack or intimidate staff and students who have a right to study and work in a climate free from intimidation.

In 2006 UCU's predecessor unions and the National Union of Students campaigned successfully against a known racist academic at Leeds University. In May 2007, UCU and the trade union movement were successful in overturning a decision to allow Nick Griffin a platform to speak at the University of Bath.

Our Future

As an educational union, we believe in the liberation of every learner's potential, irrespective of age, class, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race or religion. Racism and fascism have no place in the classroom or lecture hall.

We recommend all branches to join forces with other unions and anti-fascist organisations to campaign against xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and Islamophobia. UCU is not affiliated to any political party, but we call on all members to vote for democratic political parties in local and general elections.

UCU Congress Resolutions 2010

UCU members passed a number of resolutions at its annual Congress in May, stepping up our work on anti-fascist campaigning including:

- Continuing to play a prominent role in the struggle against the BNP and its attempts to undermine independent trade unionism
- Encourage branches to work closely with other unions and anti-fascist organisations and local communities
- Encourage the growth of a united anti-fascist movement throughout Britain

Full text of the resolutions can be viewed at www.ucu.org.uk/4649

justice4bolton

protesting against racism
and fascism is not a crime!

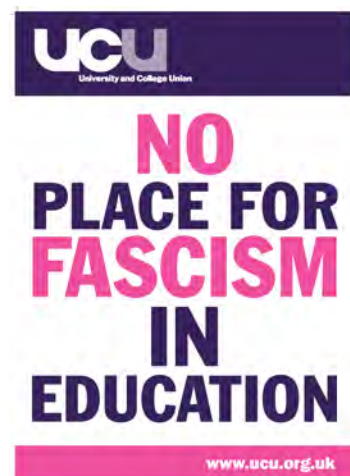
Justice4Bolton is a national campaign launched to defend anti-fascists arrested at the protest against the islamophobic and fascist English Defence League in Bolton on May 20th. Those arrested, in a clear attempt to intimidate and criminalise the anti-fascist movement, included two leading members of Unite Against Fascism, Rhetta Moran, Chair of North West UAF, and Weyman Bennett, Joint National Secretary. J4B are urgently seeking your help to raise funds for their legal and campaigning work. Donations from individuals or organisations, such as trade union branches or community groups are welcome. For further information on how to donate visit justice4bolton.org/appeal/

UCU has agreed in principle for a donation and letter of support to be sent to the Justice4Bolton campaign. See Resolution 62: Stop the Nazis – combating racism and fascism. To find out how you or your branch can support the campaign visit www.justice4bolton.org

Materials



Available now in sizes
A3 and A4





As part of UCUs antisemitism campaign a commemorative wall chart was produced by UCU member, Gaverne Bennett. The wall chart won an award at the TUC/TU ink Trade Union Communications Awards held in June for best one-off publication. The wall chart forms part of UCUs ongoing work on antisemitism.

Work is currently underway to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, January 27 2011. Further details will be issued in due course.

To order any of these materials, please contact Afshan Khan at akhan@ucu.org.uk

Training

UCU equality reps and officers will work within branches to promote equality with the employer and union members. This could include looking at issues such as:

Flexible working
Discriminatory practices

Absence management
Equal pay

Equality impact assessments

They also ensure that UCU's national annual meetings, and any other relevant events and opportunities for women, black members, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) members and disabled members are publicised locally, that members from all groups are encouraged to participate, and that the branch maximises the opportunities for recruitment and organisation amongst all groups.

Equality reps are key in developing and sustaining national and local equality networks. For more information about this course or others currently being offered as part of the UCU National Training Programme, please visit www.ucu.org.uk/3311 or email training@ucu.org.uk

A bloody episode for the BNP

Richard Barnbrook, one of the British National party's most senior figures, has been expelled as part of an increasingly bitter feud threatening to engulf the far-right organisation.

The London Assembly member, who was one of a group of rebels who tried to wrest control of the BNP from party leader Nick Griffin last month, was informed via an internal memo this week that he was no longer a party member.

"Sadly we have concluded that we are left with no alternative but to expel Richard Barnbrook from membership of the British National party," it reads. "I have written to him informing him that I have taken that action today and he is no longer a member of our party."

Barnbrook, who was the party's sole representative on the London Assembly, is one of the BNP's most high-profile officials and his expulsion comes as the party faces a growing political and financial crisis.

To read the full article visit www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/sep/29/bnp-barnbrook-expelled-griffin-feud

Coming soon

Registrations are now open for all four Annual Equality Conferences. The conferences are an excellent opportunity to meet other UCU members, discuss key issues and help formulate policy on each of the equality strands. The four Equality Standing Committees will also be elected at the conferences. The conferences are free of charge and reasonable travel expenses will be met. You can register online by following the links below, or request a form from Sue Moss at smoss@ucu.org.uk.

In accordance with Rules, Branches and LA's will be able to submit nominations and motions for each of the equality standing committees. Nomination and motion forms are also available online or can be requested from eqadmin@ucu.org.uk.

<p>Friday 5 November 2010 Disabled Members' Annual Conference Registration, nominations and motions: www.ucu.org.uk/2702</p>	<p>Friday 12 November 2010 Black Members' Annual Conference Registration, nominations and motions: www.ucu.org.uk/2699</p>
<p>Saturday 20 November 2010 LGBT Members' Annual Conference Registration, nominations and motions: www.ucu.org.uk/2700</p>	<p>Friday 26 November 2010 Women Members' Annual Conference Registration, nominations and motions: www.ucu.org.uk/2701</p>

Places are limited, so register soon to avoid missing out on these exciting events!

UCU affiliates to a number of anti-racist organisations. From time to time we will send out information about events, meetings and rallies being organised.



After producing and distributing millions of anti-BNP leaflets in the general election of 2009 Unite Against Fascism has organised over 30 protests in the past year against the English Defence League, an organisation of racist street thugs with close links to the BNP.

Now, supported by Love Music Hate Racism and backed by the Muslim Council of Britain and the TUC, UAF have called a national march and carnival against racism, fascism and Islamophobia on **Saturday 6 November**. It is vitally important that, as government cuts begin to bite, we stand together against attempts to divide people. Can you organise a delegation from your branch and send your banner to the demonstration?

This event is preceded by a number of rallies to be chaired by Ken Livingstone, UAF Chair and Joint Secretaries, Weyman Bennett and Sabby Dhalu. The rallies will be held on **30 September in London; 12 October in Glasgow** and **16 October in Birmingham**. For further information on this or other events being organised by UAF, visit www.uaf.org.uk

Trade Union Friends of Searchlight and Hope Not Hate

Trade unions are proud to campaign against the extremism of the BNP and EDL. We do this because we care about the communities in which we work and the people who live within them.

We have seen where the politics of hate can lead during the violent disturbances from Oldham in 2001 to Dudley in April 2010.

We see the BNP and EDL's dishonest blaming of minorities for everything as a cowardly substitute for challenging those with real power to address the real problems with which we deal every day.

This campaign is a "bread and butter" matter for unions. We are only as strong as our members. Our influence to get the better terms and conditions our members deserve depends on us having a strong and united membership.

To exclude people from membership on the grounds of race, or other arbitrary reasons would give a green light to bad employers to squeeze unions out and just employ, and exploit, those whom the far right would have us abandon. The BNP is not just an enemy of those it hates – it is the enemy of all workers.

The BNP talks about defending working people but it is only talk. It is unions who organise on the ground. To find out more about Trade Union Friends of Searchlight, visit www.hopenothate.org.uk/tufs/

HOPE not hate is linking up with Kick It Out to distribute anti-racist leaflets at football grounds across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Want to help organise an activity in your area? Visit the Hope not Hate website at www.hopenothate.org.uk

STOP ✂✂✂✂ THE ✂✂✂✂ CUTS ✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂

TUC rally and lobby of parliament against the cuts, Tuesday 19 October

Deep, rapid spending cuts will hit the vulnerable, undermine vital services and threaten both private and public sector jobs. On Tuesday 19 October join the campaign for an alternative.

Take the message to coalition MPs the day before the Comprehensive Spending Review reveals the full extent of the cuts to come. Rally 12:30 to 14.00 Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1H 9NH. Hear how damaging the cuts will be and the case for a fair alternative. 14.30 Lobby coalition MPs. More information and confirmed speakers at www.tuc.org.uk/alltogether



The demo is part of our strategy to influence the Coalition Government. NUS and UCU firmly believe that education changes the lives of individuals, families and communities. Education and skills will also be key to our economic recovery.

Staff and students in further and higher education are coming together to build an unprecedented coalition to fight against the cuts that have been imposed upon our communities, as well as to resist the prospect of higher fees and increasing privatisation in education.

For further information contact Justine Stephens at jstephens@ucu.org.uk

Get in touch! We know that UCU members are doing fantastic work in the field of anti-racism and want you to continue. If you are organising or supporting local events, please let us know. If you would like to be part of an email network group where we will specifically send you information and updates, please send an email to eqadmin@ucu.org.uk with 'join AF Network' in the subject header.