

UCU is committed to campaigning against xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and Islamophobia. We affiliate to **Unite against Fascism** and **Hope Not Hate**.

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## 1. **Local Elections**

Local elections are upcoming on May the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and right-wing political organisations have put forward candidates in several areas. The BNP is in decline, and has managed to stand only around 130 candidates, well down on the 268 it stood last year. But other fascist candidates are also standing in these elections – including 34 for the National Front. And many former BNP candidates have simply swapped rosettes and have reappeared under new party names. Unite against Fascism has compiled a list of prominent fascist candidates up and down the country. UCU is not affiliated to any political party, but if you are eligible to vote in one of these areas, we urge you to go out and vote for your chosen opponent. Voter apathy and complacency can let a fascist candidate in through the back door.

### **The English Democrats**

The English Democrats have welcomed BNP fascists with open arms. The EDP is standing 86 election hopefuls outside London, plus a list for the GLA. Outside London, more than a quarter of the English Democrat candidates formerly stood for election as BNP members. Former BNP parliamentary candidate Michael Barnbrook is now on the EDP's list for the GLA.

EDP candidates include Chris Beverley, who is standing in **Leeds** and is also PA to the BNP's MEP Andrew Brons.

They also include Eddy Butler, formerly the BNP national organiser and the architect of its 'Rights for Whites' campaign in the 1990s. Butler is listed on Brons' website as his political researcher – but he is standing for the English Democrats alongside their party leader Robin Tilbrook in **Epping Forest, Herts**.

Their campaign will be focused in the **Yorkshire and Humber and East of England** regions in areas that have previously been BNP hunting grounds.

In **Barnsley**, six of the EDP's 12 candidates previously stood for the BNP. In **Southend**, Essex, the figure is five out of 10. There are many more BNP turned EDP candidates around the country.

### **The British Freedom Party**

The elections will also see the British Freedom Party stick its toes in the water, with six candidates standing. The party was set up by former senior BNP members.



It has **announced an alliance** with the English Defence League, giving them the classic fascist structure with both electoral and street-fighting wings. Since then it has attracted a further slew of disgruntled BNP members too.

The BFP was not expected to stand many candidates this year – it is instead aiming at 2013-14. But its chief nominating officer Peter Stafford has nominated himself and two other members of the Stafford family to stand in **Liverpool**. All three are former BNP candidates, as is Peter Squire, one of the two other BFP candidates in **Liverpool**. The BFP's only other candidate is standing in **Basildon**, Essex.

### **London**

The elections for the **Greater London Assembly** will be a key battleground, as the BNP see to regain the seat that Richard Barnbrook took for the party in 2008, through the 'top-up list'.

The BNP is standing Carlos Cortiglia as a candidate for mayor of **London** – a move that will mean that a BNP election address will be included in the election material put through every door in London. Steve Squire will be seeking to breach the 5% barrier that could get him elected.

The fascist parties are also standing in the GLA member elections in some areas, notably **Redbridge and Havering**, where the BNP's Bob Taylor is joined by EDP candidate Mark Twiddy and the NF's longtime Nazi Richard Edmonds, formerly a deputy leader of the BNP. Taylor is also standing in a Barking and Dagenham byelection on 19 April.

But it is the GLA list that presents the greatest danger – Barnbrook got in with just 5.3% of the vote in 2008. It is important that Londoners use their votes to keep the BNP out this time.

### **Yorkshire and Humber**

This is the main target area for the EDP, with 33 candidates – more than a third of their total – standing in areas that the BNP has targeted in the past, with substantial slates in **Barnsley, Leeds and Doncaster**.

There are a clutch of BNP candidates in **Rotherham**, and the NF are putting up four in **Hull**. The BNP is standing in Bradford's Queensbury ward, where it still holds a seat. But in Kirklees, where the BNP has had influence in the past, no fascists are standing this time.

### **North West**

The BNP is standing 35 candidates across the region – a quarter of its total – with the EDP and BFP (in **Liverpool**) also putting in an appearance.

The BNP, EDP and NF are all standing in **Liverpool's** mayoral election, seeking extra publicity.

In Salford, the BNP and EDP are both standing for mayor, with the BNP also putting up eight council candidates. Other areas with clutches of BNP candidates include **Stockport** (seven) and Burnley (six), where the remaining BNP councillor Sharon Wilkinson could be kicked out of her seat.

### **West Midlands**

The BNP looks to have preserved more of its organisation here than in any other region. It is standing 48 candidates here, more than a third of its total nationally. These include 18 in **Birmingham**, 11 in **Coventry** and eight in **Nuneaton**.

There are also handfuls of NF and EDP candidates in the **West Midlands**.

But North Staffs antifascist campaigners were celebrating the absence of fascist candidates in **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, where the BNP had been expected to stand despite its wipeout in neighbouring **Stoke**.

The main threat in the East Midlands is in **Amber Valley**, where five BNP and one NF candidate are standing. BNP councilor Cliff Roper could be unseated here.

### **East of England**

In the East of England, the EDP is having a notable push, particularly in **Essex and Herts**. Eddy Butler and Robin Tilbrook are standing for the EDP in **Epping Forest** alongside two BNP members – one of them current BNP councillor Pat Richardson. Five of the 10 EDP

candidates in **Southend** have previously stood for the BNP, as has 'independent' candidate Geoff Strobridge.

A scattering of EDP candidates across the region are standing in areas once targeted by the BNP. But in Thurrock, the NF has put up four candidates, alongside one BNPer. The NF's bunch include former **Isle of Dogs** Nazi Derek Beackon, who was **pushed into fourth place** when he stood for the BNP just last year.

In the North East, the BNP's main push is in **South Tyneside**, with eight candidates. There are a handful of BNP and NF candidates elsewhere in the region.

## Scotland

**Scotland** has eight NF candidates, with six of these in **Aberdeen** and two more in **West Lothian**. Another four are standing for the fascist Britannica Party. In **Wales**, the fascists have rustled up just two BNP and two NF candidates across the entire country.

## 2. Anti-Semitism leaflet



UCU is committed to opposing and challenging anti-Semitism, and has launched a leaflet on the issue that you can use in your institution. You can download it below, or contact [eqadmin@ucu.org.uk](mailto:eqadmin@ucu.org.uk) for a hard copy.

 [Anti Semitism Leaflet \(.pdf\) \[2.2Mb\]](#)

## 3. Holocaust Wall Chart Updated



As part of its work around Holocaust Memorial Day (see below) UCU has updated its Holocaust Memorial Day wall chart to bring it right up to date. It includes new sections about the recent fight against fascist organisations like the BNP and the EDL. This resource can be used in your institution to educate against the dangers of anti-Semitism,

fascism and discrimination. To order a copy of the chart please email [eqadmin@ucu.org.uk](mailto:eqadmin@ucu.org.uk) with your postal details. You can also download a version below.

 [Holocaust Wall Chart \(.pdf\) \[1.5Mb\]](#)

## 4. 5<sup>th</sup> May – March Against the EDL, Luton



On Saturday the 5th May, a major demonstration has been organised in Luton to counter a proposed EDL rally in the town on that day. Unite Against Fascism has organised the event with other groups. Here is the information from their website on how to take part:

“Unite Against Fascism is calling on all antiracists and antifascists to mobilise for a national demo against the

English Defence League in Luton on Saturday 5 May. A coalition of local trade unionists and community groups in Luton is organising the march against the EDL. **Read the ‘We Are Luton’ statement and initial list of supporters** This will assemble at **11am, Wardown Park, New Bedford Road, Luton LU3 1LP and march to St George’s Square** in the centre of town.

We want as many people as possible from around the country to join the protest against the EDL, which has called its own demo in Luton on that day. Luton is where the EDL was formed, after a balaclava-clad mob of violent racists ran rampage through the town in 2009. But Luton does not belong to the EDL – it is a multiracial, multicultural town where the overwhelming majority of local people reject the EDL’s message of anti-Muslim racist hate.

In September, thousands of antifascists successfully stopped the EDL from setting foot in Tower Hamlets – the demo they had described as their ‘big one’. The 600 EDL members who turned out could not set foot across the borough boundary. The day was a **victory** for all those who oppose the EDL. But the EDL has not been knocked out and has been able to regroup in some areas – helped by irresponsible national TV coverage and the decision by police to let just 450 EDL supporters march through Leicester. And Luton is where they want to rally their forces and boost themselves up. Last year, they brought around 3,000 to Luton – above their usual turnouts at the time. They were **opposed** by demonstrators in the centre of town and by huge numbers of people who gathered in Bury Park – which has a large Muslim population – to defend the local area from the EDL. Now we need to make sure there are huge numbers of people on the Luton march against the EDL on 5 May, to deal a decisive blow against the racists and fascists in the town they seek to claim

as their 'home ground'. We want to show them they are not welcome in Luton – or anywhere else.

**Download demo leaflet here**

**National transport to the demo**

**5** things you can do?

- 1. Leaflet your workplace, train/underground stations**
- 2. Hold a lunch time meeting at your college or university – involve student groups such as the NUS**
- 3. Attend anti-fascist conferences or events**
- 4. Affiliate to Unite Against Fascism or Hope not Hate**
- 5. Sign up to receive regular anti-fascist updates from UCU (email [eqadmin@ucu.org.uk](mailto:eqadmin@ucu.org.uk))**