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

Holocaust Memorial Day 2013

On January 23rd 2013, UCU produced a film to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day comprising of UCU Officers and members. Contributors retold stories of courage, separation and loss and survival of family members during the Holocaust.

We would like to thank UCU members who have taken part in this innovative project including those members who kindly submitted written testimonials about their family members who were murdered during the Holocaust, we hope that this will be available shortly as well as all UCU branches and local associations who held events to commemorate the day. To view the film and other material produced, please visit <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=6442>

EDL leader behind bars

The leader of the English Defence League, Stephen Lennon, was jailed in January 2013 for 10 months for using someone else's passport to enter the United States – he had been refused entry to the USA on a previous occasion. Lennon, 30, pleaded guilty to possession of a false identity document with improper intention, contrary to the Identity Documents Act 2010, at Southwark Crown Court.

Whilst this news is welcome, you are reminded that there are many more members of this vile and nasty organisation that needs to know that they are not welcome here or **ANYWHERE!**

Our affiliates **Unite against fascism** and **HOPE not hate** have extensive material including factsheets and reports of EDL activity around the country.

Elections 2013 – 2014

Local elections will be held in the UK on Thursday 2nd May 2013 and the European Parliament elections will be held in all member states of the European Union between 5th and 8th June 2014. The BNP are fast losing credibility from their earlier successes in the 2008 and 2009 elections by when they won a seat on the London Assembly and again in the European Parliament.

However, in the 2010 General Election, the BNP failed to win any seats and are crumbling as a party with serious questions being raised about the finances of the party and more recently, ex MEP Andrew Brons, resigning from the party in October 2012 to become patron of the newly formed British Democratic Party.

The leader of the British National Party, Nick Griffin is currently an MEP for the North West and will be campaigning to retain his seat. UCU amongst many others in the trade union movement will be campaigning against Griffin **who will only require 8% of the vote to hold onto his seat** as well as any other fascist organisation that is seeking votes from the electorate this year and next. Our two affiliates (HOPE not Hate and Unite against fascism) will be campaigning against the British National Party's bid to gain a seat in the European Parliamentary elections in 2014. **This is not a time to be complacent!**

Other news in equality....

Review of the equality duty - briefing paper: The coalition government is currently undertaking a review of the public sector equality duty, a vital part of the Equality Act 2010 which requires public authorities to consider equality in all that they do.

The review was announced as part of its response to the Red Tape Challenge on equalities in line with the government's *'strong desire to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy where it exists and consider alternatives to legislation'*.

The TUC believes this review is premature - the new equality duty only came into effect just under two years ago and the specific duties only a year ago. We have also expressed concerns about the degree of objectivity and rigour with which the review will be carried out. It is being overseen by a steering group that lacks any public service user or worker voice on it and no representation from the devolved administrations. It is being conducted in a very short timeframe. The terms of reference were only published at the end of November 2012 and the final report is due to ministers in April 2013.

Doreen Lawrence OBE has also added her voice to the way that the Government is eroding equality in their review of the duty and has criticised Ministers for *their 'back tracking on the Government's commitment to equalities'*, by ignoring the legacy of Stephen Lawrence and the recommendations of the Macpherson's report following the racist murder of her son, twenty years ago in 1993.

UCU's concerns are outlined in the briefing paper: **The Coalition Government's Review of the Equality Duty**

Stephen Lawrence Fund

The TUC is calling on trade unions and trade unionists to help protect the legacy of Stephen Lawrence by giving generously to the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust fund raising appeal to ensure that the vital work of the Trust continues and that Stephen's legacy lives on.

You can donate online by visiting <http://www.justgiving.com/TUCslct>

Your branch / local association can use the model motion available for download here at <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1937> to agree to send funds to the trust.

Events



February is LGBT History Month!

There are many events being held around the country to mark LGBT History Month.

To see what is happening, visit
<http://lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/>



unite against fascism

Annual Conference 2013: Saturday 2nd March 2013 at the Trades Union Congress, London

This event is hosted by **Unite Against Fascism, One Society Many Cultures, NUT and PCS** and is supported by **The Muslim Council of Britain, Engage, London Muslim Centre, East London Mosque, Islamic Forum of Europe and British Muslim Initiative**. Register **NOW** at www.uaf.org.uk

Speakers invited include: **Azad Ali**, Head of Community Development, Engage, **Omar Ali**, FOSIS President, **Weyman Bennett**, National Secretary Unite Against Fascism, **Christine Blower**, General Secretary NUT, **John Campbell**, UAF Chair Yorkshire, **Petros Constantinou**, National Organiser, KEERFA Greece Anti-fascist campaign, **Jeremy Corbyn** MP, **Sabby Dhalu**, National Secretary Unite Against Fascism, **Dr Omer El Hamdoon**, President of the Muslim Association of Britain, **Denis Fernando**, Lesbian and Gay Coalition Against Racism, **Glyn Ford**, UAF European Officer, **Myriam Francois-Cerrah**, Writer and journalist, **Gerry Gable**, Editor, Searchlight, **Billy Hayes**, General Secretary CWU, **Chris Keates**, General Secretary NASUWT, **Hugh Lanning**, Deputy General Secretary PCS, **Leslie Mercer**, TUC President, **Marwan Mohammed**, Director of CCIF Collective Against Islamophobia in France, **Claude Moraes** MEP, **Farooq Murad**, General Secretary Muslim Council of Britain, **Symon Sentain**, Chair of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, **Helen Shaw**, Inquest Co-Director and **Andy Slaughter** MP.

There will be a session on ***Austerity and the rise of Le Pen and Golden Dawn***. The conference will review UAF's successes – including the crushing blow inflicted on the English Defence League in Walthamstow – and discuss what is to be done in the next year to prevent the EDL regrouping and to counter fascist candidates in the elections in 2013 and 2014. It will also be an opportunity to discuss how we challenge Islamophobia and racism, and defend multiculturalism.

Conference themes include: **Euro 2014: stop Nick Griffin and Andrew Brons ■ Mobilising against the EDL ■ Policy, media and the impact on Britain's Muslim communities ■ Policing and institutional racism ■ Preventing racism, Islamophobia and homophobia on the streets and in the workplace ■ The truth about immigration, integration and multiculturalism ■ Why we must defend "No platform for fascism"** Please contact UAF for further information on the conference themes.

The conference will bring together parliamentarians, trade unionists, faith representatives, Black communities, LGBT groups, students and all those who oppose fascism and racism to co-ordinate action against racism and fascism over the year ahead.



International Women's Day

Thursday 7th March 2013

18:00 to 20:00

Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1

For International Women's Day 2013 the TUC will host an evening event to mark '**the struggle for Arab Women's Rights**' and will look at how trade unionists and consumers can help.

Guest speaker will be Jalila al-Salman, trade unionist and vice president of the Bahraini Teachers' Association, recently freed from jail after a global union campaign with Suanne McCarthy, chair of the Ethical Trading Initiative. Also speaking will be TUC president, Lesley Mercer and TUC general secretary, Frances O'Grady.

It will be an evening of speeches, entertainment and food. **The event is free to attend but registration is essential.** To register your attendance, email Pat Brown at pbrown@tuc.org.uk



HOPE not hate will be organising a weekend of campaigning activities on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th April 2013 around the country. To organise an event in your area, please contact matt@hopenothate.org.uk for further details.

UCU members who wish to apply for sponsorship to the annual **Unite against fascism conference on Saturday 2nd March 2013 should first make sure they have the support of their branch or local association, and then ask the secretary / chair to send an email complete with contact details of the delegate to eqadmin@ucu.org.uk before completing any registration forms.**

UCU sponsorship includes the delegate fee and reasonable travel expenses to attend. Please let us know in advance if travelling to this event would involve substantial outlay for the union. We are only able to fund **2 places which will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. Members confirmed to attend will be required to write a report which will be shared with UCU's Equality Committee and wider membership.**

Branches and local associations can also send delegates to this event independently using local resources.

Materials and resources

You can request copies of any of the resources shown here by sending an email to eqadmin@ucu.org.uk. Please remember to state the quantity required and your full postal details.

UCU says **NO** to



We want to hear from you!

Get in touch! We know that UCU members are doing fantastic work in the field of anti-racism and want you to continue. Email eqadmin@ucu.org.uk with your stories or updates.

Sending out the right message: Why we must continue to fight against racism

UCU alongside anti-racists organisations will continue to campaign against racism within our society. Our principles clearly state that we stand 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. So, wherever and whenever you see or hear about a racist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic or anti-Semitic attacks challenge it! **Together we can effect change!**

UCU affiliates to the following anti-fascist organisations

Unite Against Fascism
PO Box 68229
London SW1P 9WZ
Telephone: 020 7801 2782
www.uaf.org.uk

HOPE not hate
PO Box 67476
London NW3 9RF
Telephone: 020 7681 8660
www.hopenothate.org.uk

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.

5 things you can do to campaign against fascism and racism

1.

Leaflet your workplace, train / underground station

2.

Hold a lunch time meeting at your college or university – involve other sister unions and student groups including the NUS

3.

Attend anti-fascist conferences or events

4.

Affiliate to Unite against fascism or HOPE not hate

5.

Sign up to receive anti-fascist updates from UCU

