

The fight goes on! 70 years of struggle against fascism in London

An exhibition by
Lewisham Anti-Racist Action Group,
affiliated to the national campaign
Unite Against Fascism.



This exhibition is available for loan from LARAG:
please email larag@talktalk.net

Acknowledgements:

Dave Renton. *"When we touched the Sky"* — The Anti Nazi League 1977–1981. Published by New Clarion Press, 2006.

Half Moon Photography Workshop: *CAMERAWORK* — "Lewisham: What are you taking pictures for?", No.8 1977.

Unite Against Fascism — a national campaign with the aim of alerting British society to the rising threat of the extreme right, in particular the British National Party (BNP), gaining an electoral foothold in this country.

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The battle

of

Cable Street

1939



East End of London 1930s — Media distortions

In the late 1930s, Jewish refugees escaping Nazi Germany arrived in Britain. Headlines in the British Press of the time sound familiar today.

“There is a big influx of foreign Jews, they are over-running the country.”

“Aliens who can hardly speak English are now driving London taxicabs and forcing British drivers off the streets.”

“Refugees get jobs, Britons get dole.”

“Alien Jews pouring in.”

Mosley’s British Union of Fascists decided to march through the East End to intimidate the local Jewish community. Below are some eye witness accounts of that day.

© Museum of London



Anti-fascist crowds gather to stop fascists from marching near Aldgate in 1937.

The Battle of Cable Street — eye witness accounts

Professor Bill Fishman was 15 on the day.

“I pushed myself forward and because I was 6ft I could see Mosley. They were surrounded by an even greater army of police. There was to be this great advance of the police force to get the fascists through. Suddenly, the horses’ hooves were flying and the horses were falling down because the young kids were throwing marbles.”

“I heard this loudspeaker say ‘They are going to Cable Street’. Suddenly a barricade was erected there and they put an old lorry in the middle of the road and old mattresses. The people up the top of the flats, mainly Irish Catholic women, were throwing rubbish on to the police. We were all side by side. I was moved to tears to see bearded Jews and Irish Catholic dockers standing up to stop Mosley. I shall never forget that as long as I live, how working-class people could get together to oppose the evil of racism.”



The Battle of Cable Street — eye witness accounts

Max Levitas was a message runner and had already been fined £10 in court for his anti-Mosley activities.

“I feel proud that I played a major part in stopping Mosley. When we heard that the march was disbanded, there was a hue and cry and the flags were going wild. They did not pass. The chief of police decided that if the march had taken place there would be death on the road — and there would have been,” he said.

“It was a victory for ordinary people against racism and anti-Semitism and it should be instilled in the minds of people today. The Battle of Cable Street is a history lesson for us all. People as people must get together and stop racism and anti-Semitism so people can lead an ordinary life and develop their own ideas and religions.”

Mick Mindel recalled:

“The victory on October 4th was very sweet... it made many young Jews recognise the need to stand up and fight and realise that together with non-Jews we could defeat the racists and fascists. Our experience was very much like that of young Asians today.”

Jewish Communist, Charlie Goodman is arrested after a mounted baton-charge at the Battle of Cable Street in 1936.



AP/EMPICS

Sadly, the fascist threat to London would return

The battle of Lewisham

August 13th 1977

Rise of the National Front — mid 1970s election results

At Leicester in April 1976, the Front won a total of 44,000 votes in local elections. Combined with the National Party, the total fascist vote reached 38 per cent in Blackburn.

In March 1977, the Front beat the Liberal Party in a bye-election at Stechford in Birmingham, and pundits warned that the NF could displace the Liberals as Britain's third main political party.

The NF received 119,000 votes in the May 1977 GLC elections, and almost quarter of a million votes across the country in that year's local elections.

During this period, the NF claimed to have up to 20,000 paid-up members.

The National Front stood 413 candidates in local elections in 1977, and promised to stand 318 candidates in the 1979 General Election.

(Extracts from *"When we touched the Sky – The Anti Nazi League 1977-1981"*, Dave Renton)

1976 Martin Webster leads
a National Front march in its
heyday



The Battle of Lewisham — August 1977

CAMERAWORK – the photos in this exhibition of Lewisham on 13th August 1977 were produced in a special edition of *CAMERAWORK*, a publication from the Half Moon Photography Workshop which was designed to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, views and information on photography and other forms of communication.

This is how they introduced their special edition covering the events of 13th August 1977.

“On August 13th 1977 the National Front — proud of its racialism — attempted to march from New Cross to Lewisham, an area with many immigrants. Their march was halted in Lewisham High Street which was blocked by anti-racists. In this issue, we give evidence of what happened on that day, much of which has been ignored elsewhere.

Many photographers helped us to produce this issue, freely giving many more photographs than we could use. They work for magazines ranging from *Time* and *The Sunday Telegraph Magazine* to *Socialist Worker* and *Newsline*. ”

Chris Steele-Perkins



The National Front march, Lewisham, August 13, 1977.

The Battle of Lewisham

— August 1977

The text describing the events on 13th August is taken from the **“When we touched the Sky – The Anti Nazi League 1977-1981”** by Dave Renton.

The events at Lewisham began when police arrested eighteen black youths in South London and charged them with street robbery. They were arrested in an apartheid-style raid: doors were knocked down, people grabbed from their beds. In the aftermath of this police action, Tony Bogue and Kim Gordon of the black socialist group Flame met up with David Foster, father of one of the defendants. According to Bogue,

“David was an ordinary, nice fellow who had believed in the early stages of his life the myths about British justice, but on arriving in Britain he was immediately aware of the question of race. We sat down and talked with him for days. His house became the community house. The question of self-defence from the fascists and the police came up in discussion with the youth. We spent a lot of time, persuading people to work with us.”

A defence campaign was soon organised, for the Lewisham 18, later the Lewisham 21. The Front retaliated by calling an anti-mugging march.

Homer Sykes



Achilles St. National Front set off.

The Battle of Lewisham

— August 13th 1977, 11am

Using published sources, interviews and press accounts, we have tried to create a timeline of what happened on the day.

August 13 began at 11am with a march called by the Communist Party, Catholic organisations, councillors and members of the All-Lewisham Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (Alcaraf). Mayor Godsif of Lewisham and Mervyn Stockwood, the Bishop of Southwark led the march. Having taken part in the first demonstration, members of Rock Against Racism then handed out a leaflet calling upon the demonstrators to join a second protest, which would assemble at the National Front's planned assembly point. Red Saunders was part of the crowd who joined both the first and second demonstrations.

"...we were all just milling about, when this old black lady, too old to march, came out on her balcony. She put out her speakers, as loud as they could, playing 'Get up, stand up'. That did it for me."

Paul Trevor



New Cross Rd. Anti-racists meeting before NF march.

The Battle of Lewisham — August 13th 1977, 1.30pm

According to the journalist John Rose,

“The whole of New Cross High Road and the top of the Nazis’ intended assembly point, Clifton Rise, was occupied by anti-fascists. It was then that the police made their first, unprovoked attack. Foot police tried unsuccessfully to clear a path for the Nazi march, and then mounted police moved in. They too, were soon forced to retreat – but not before the police had taken revenge by grabbing people at random. Unable to clear the top of Clifton Rise, the police finally made the Nazis move up onto the main road through a sideroad 200 yards along... Suddenly, hundreds of police and a score of police horses began to charge down the road clearing a path for the head of the Nazi column. The crowd of anti-fascists exploded. Sticks, smoke bombs, rocks, bottles, were thrown over the police heads at the Nazis.”

Paul Trevor



New Cross Rd. Anti-racists block route of National Front.

The Battle of Lewisham — August 13th 1977, 2.30pm

By 2:30, this large contingent had arrived at Central Lewisham, about the mid-way point in the National Front's planned route. In this way, they were able to occupy the ground before the Front had arrived. According to Charli who was also on the march:

"When my contingent reached the police we couldn't turn round because at that point the demo came to a complete halt... We were the first banner, and marching with no police 'escort' at all, but by the time we'd done half a mile there was a group of black youth, generally in the 14 to 20 age range, demoing ahead of us, and this group grew until it was maybe 400-strong as we went along. Big contrast between the all-black youth ahead of us and the 95 per cent plus white contingents from the original demo. There were people hanging out of windows and waving and cheering as we went along."

Peter Marlow



New Cross Rd. Anti-racists

The Battle of Lewisham

— August 13th 1977, 2.30pm

At the same time, the bruised remnants of the National Front march had reached Lewisham Station. The marchers could then look South, where the whole of Lewisham was occupied by the largest group of anti-Front protesters, outnumbering the police and the Front combined.

Not daring to continue along their planned route, the Front headed instead North, towards Blackheath, where they stopped in a car park, and NF leader John Tyndall gave a short, concluding speech, calling for the police to be armed with guns. His followers slunk away.

Peter Mallow



New Cross Rd. National Front lines are broken by anti-racists.

The Battle of Lewisham

— August 13th 1977, 3pm

By 3pm, the Front had been dispersed. Yet the police were still determined to clear all anti-fascists from the streets. Ted Parker was now at Lewisham Clock Tower.

“There was a tide of people blocking the road. There were no signs of the police, at all. Marchers were even redirecting the traffic. Then the police began to appear.”

The *Sunday Times* blamed the subsequent fighting on the left:

“The most violent scenes came when some 3,000 demonstrators realised that a secret arrangement between the police and National Front had allowed the NF marchers to slip away. Enraged left-wingers rioted along Lewisham High Street, smashing windows, wrecking police vehicles.”

It would be more accurate to say that people were defending themselves from the police.

Phil McCowen



Lewisham High St.
Police charge
anti-racists.

The Battle of Lewisham

— August 13th 1977

- ➔ A third of the entire Metropolitan police force was on duty that day.
- ➔ It was the first time that they had used riot shields in England, and even on their own terms, the police hardly knew what to do.
- ➔ The officers charged, in broken lines, arresting more than 200 demonstrators. People were clubbed, as they stood, grabbed and taken.
- ➔ Activists were determined to halt the National Front, and prevent them from gaining control of the streets.
- ➔ On that day, around six thousand anti-fascists, including large numbers of local black youths, prevented some eight hundred supporters of the National Front from marching through Lewisham.



Clifton Rise. Arrest.

Peter Marlow



New Cross Rd. NF march broken.

Phil McCowen

**Victory for the anti-fascist majority
in London 1977!**

**Today it is the fascist British National Party which
presents Londoners with a different but even more
serious threat...**

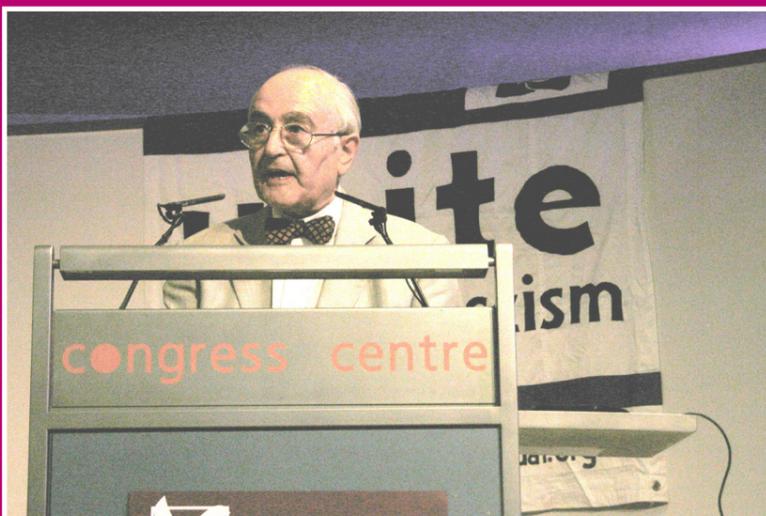
**The battle
to stop the BNP
in London today**

The ugly truth about the BNP

The British National Party (BNP) are the largest fascist party in Britain today. Do you know what they are really about?

➔ The BNP denies the holocaust

Six million Jewish people were murdered in the Nazi holocaust. In total 15 million Jews, trade unionists, Roma, Slavs, black, lesbian, gay and disabled people were murdered as a result of Nazi Germany's murderous policies. Nick Griffin, the BNP leader, was convicted for inciting racial hatred after a magazine he published denied the Nazi Holocaust.



"Having lost many members of my family in the Holocaust, I do not want to see a repetition of the Nazis' systematic annihilation of many communities who spoke up against their evil policies. That is why I am determined to fight the BNP who are trying to copy Hitler's method of coming to power."

The late Henry Gutterman addressing a UAF conference

➔ The BNP and racist violence

Racist attacks increase in areas the BNP targets. In Barking and Dagenham — where the BNP had 12 councillors — according to figures from the local Race Equality Council, racist attacks increased by 30% between 2002 and 2004. This corresponds with increased BNP activity in the area.

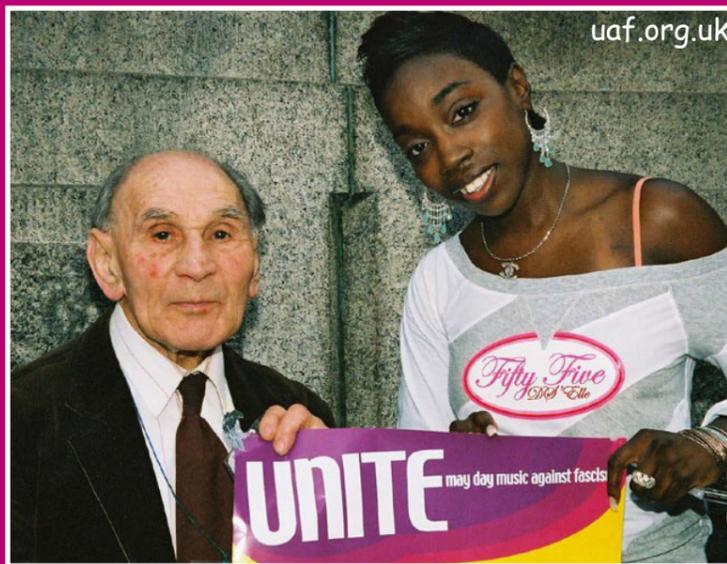
➔ The BNP has terrorist connections

Jon Laidlaw, who told the police he was a BNP member and wanted to kill all black people, was convicted in February 2007 after a shooting spree on the London underground. David Copeland, a former BNP member who carried out the London nail bombings in Brixton, Brick Lane and Soho said: "My aim was political. It was to cause a racial war... then all the white people would go and vote BNP."

The ugly truth about the BNP

➔ The BNP is a fascist organisation

The BNP tries to pose as a respectable political party. However, beneath the surface lies a fascist organisation. The BNP has its roots in the openly Nazi organisation the National Front, and has links with white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups around the world. Mark Collett, the BNP's former youth leader, was caught on TV praising Hitler and saying that Nazi Germany was a better place to live than some parts of Britain.



Holocaust survivor Leon Greenman with Estelle, campaigning with the UAF in east London

➔ The BNP – a homophobic organisation

In response to the nail bombing of Soho in 1999, Nick Griffin, BNP leader said "Dozens of 'gay' demonstrators flaunting their perversion in front of the world's journalists showed just why so many ordinary people find these creatures so repulsive."

➔ The BNP is against the health service

It opposes migrant workers in the health service — the NHS would collapse without the contribution of migrant workers.

➔ BNP lies and hate

The BNP increasingly uses Islamophobia and the vilification of refugees and asylum seekers to try and gain support for their politics of hate.

The BNP — the ugly truth and how to stop them

➔ Campaigning must expose the racist myths

In Barking and Dagenham the BNP gained its seats following a racist campaign claiming that migrants gain funding for housing which it branded “Africans for Essex”. These lies were successfully challenged in the 2010 elections: the truth is that allocation policies along with national immigration policies make housing for migrants difficult, even for those in acute need.

➔ The BNP can be stopped

The most effective strategy for stopping the BNP advance is exemplified by the campaign in Oldham. Despite the BNP receiving its highest 2001 general election vote there, campaigning has driven back the BNP and stopped it from gaining a single councillor. The campaign strategy centred on tackling head-on the racist myths the BNP were taking advantage of and building a broad coalition of all those opposed to fascism, including the communities targeted by the BNP. This mobilised the majority who oppose the BNP.



“The BNP spread their lies which lead to increased racist attacks on all minority communities — we all have to register and use our vote so their policies of hate are not given any platform.”

Ruqayyah Collector, then National Union of Students Black Students’ Officer, at an anti-BNP protest in East London.

To roll back the BNP, campaigning needs to demolish their racist myths and lies.

The BNP and the 2009 euro-elections and 2010 elections

2009: the biggest electoral breakthrough for a fascist organisation in British history

On June 7th it was announced that the BNP had won two Euro seats, the biggest electoral breakthrough in the history of British fascism.

This is the first significant breakthrough by a British fascist party in a national election.

Any electoral advance by the BNP encourages their supporters and enlarges the space for their racist views in the political mainstream. Winning seats in the European Parliament threatens to normalise the presence of the BNP on the political scene in a similar manner to Jean-Marie Le Pen's Front National in France.

This puts pressure on other political parties to accommodate so-called legitimate concerns reflected in their vote by adapting to racism. Most brutally, it gives encouragement to the thug on the street to engage in racist, anti-Muslim, anti-semitic and homophobic violence.

2010: The biggest electoral defeat of the BNP since its electoral rise began in 2001

The BNP suffered major defeats at the 2010 general and local elections. In areas such as Barking, Stoke and Dudley, the BNP was pushed back and its vote share reduced. It lost a total of 27 councillors and only two BNP councillors standing for re-election held their seats and the party made no additional electoral gains. The campaign in the Barking constituency has important lessons for anti-fascists and the labour movement. This campaign showed that it is possible to defeat the BNP even in areas where it is strong.



BNP leader Nick Griffin egged by anti-fascists

The BNP were emphatically rejected in Barking

Turnout rose by an incredible 24% from the 2006 turnout of 38.3% to an average turnout of 60.3% in 2010. In 2005 the BNP only contested seven of the Barking wards. Comparing those wards that they contested in 2005 with their vote in these same seven wards in 2010, their share of the vote fell from 39% to 23.6%.

The campaigns mounted against the BNP in their strongholds of Oldham in 2001 and Barking and Dagenham in 2009–10 show they can be defeated even after they have made initial breakthroughs. Anti-fascists must learn from these lessons to stop them getting into power and attacking the many communities threatened by them.



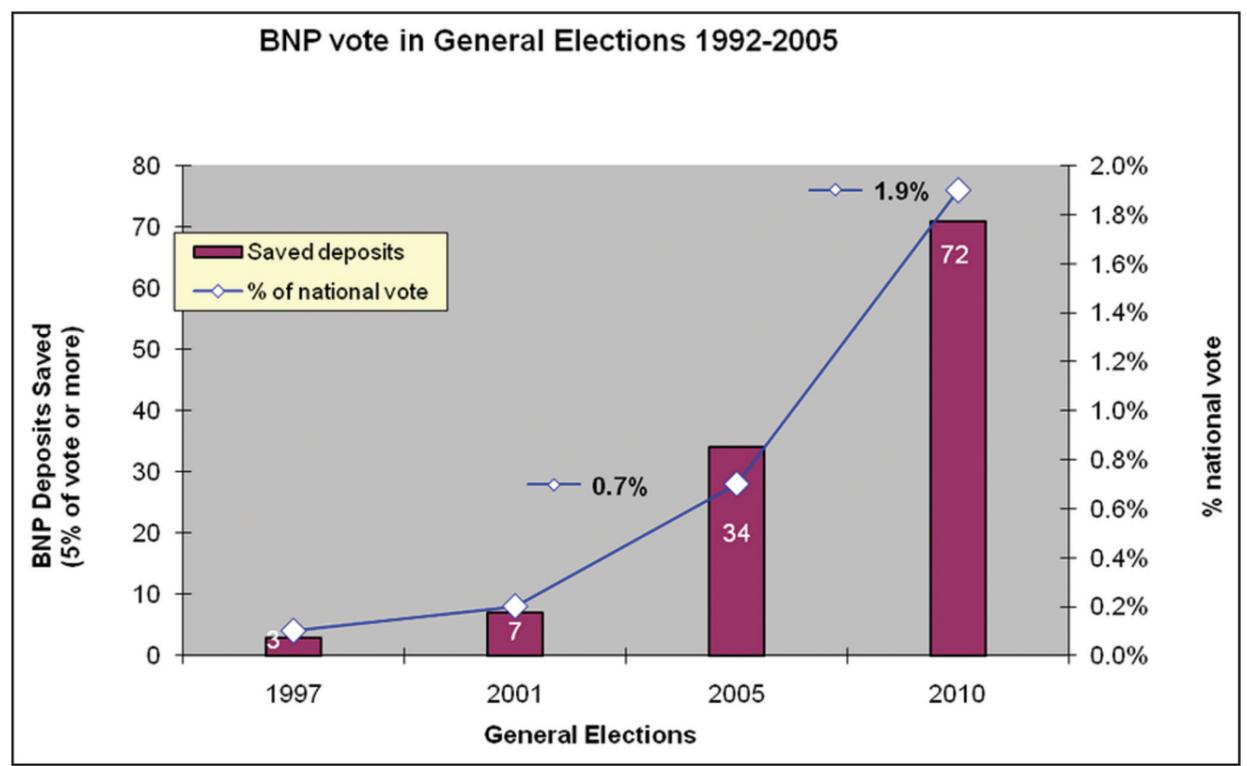
This was a victory for the whole of Britain. Not only did the BNP fail to gain a single seat, it suffered an overwhelming defeat at the hands of a team of councillors who represent the multicultural diversity of Barking. It is important to learn the lessons.

- ➔ The local Labour Party campaign exposed and challenged the BNP in its literature and explained why people needed to vote.
- ➔ The campaign rejected the racism of the BNP by fielding a team of candidates in the local elections that reflected the diversity of Barking, including several African, Muslim and Sikh candidates.
- ➔ The campaign also linked up those outside the Labour Party that wanted to assist the campaign against the BNP, such as Unite Against Fascism (UAF).
- ➔ UAF mobilised its supporters for months to complement their campaign, identifying anti-BNP voters through canvassing and distributing leaflets across the borough.
- ➔ The UAF produced literature countering the so-called 'Africans for Essex' racist myth which the BNP used as its cutting edge campaign when it gained councillors in 2006. This myth falsely claimed that Africans were given grants to move to the borough.
- ➔ This joint working was the key to mobilising the increased anti-BNP vote.

The continuing fascist threat — the rising BNP vote

The long-term trend in the BNP's support since 2001 continues to be upwards.

Nationally, in the general election, the BNP increased its votes to over half a million — more than doubling its vote share from 0.7 per cent in 2005 to 1.9 per cent in 2010. It doubled its number of saved deposits, from 34 in 2005 to 72 in 2010, and ranked nationally as the fifth-highest level of support, behind UKIP but ahead of the Green Party. As for elected officials, it rose to a high of 54 councillors and two Members of the European Parliament in 2009 (though 2010 was a setback reducing its councillors to 25).



This shows that the BNP remains a real threat.

General Election 2010

Party	Votes	%	Difference 2005
Conservative	10,706,647	36.1	+ 3.8%
Labour	8,604,358	29.0	- 6.2%
Liberal Democrat	6,827,938	23.0	+ 1.0%
UKIP	917,832	3.1	+ 0.9%
BNP	563,743	1.9	+ 1.2%
Green	285,616	1.0	- 0.1%
	Turnout	65.1%	+ 4.0%

Who are the people who voted BNP in the 2009 euro-elections?

Channel 4 published a YouGov poll before the European elections to examine what drove support for the BNP. Here are a selection of the findings. The full tables are well worth a look here: www.channel4.com/news/media/2009/06/day08/yougovpoll_080609.pdf.

- ➔ The overwhelming majority of BNP supporters wanted all immigration stopped — 94% agreed with the statement. For the rest of the public it was 61%.
- ➔ BNP supporters were also most likely to put immigration as the top issue facing the country. 87% picked it as a major issue. Amongst the public as a whole it was chosen by 49% of people.

Looking at other statements on race or immigration, BNP supporters tend to contrast even more strongly with supporters of other parties.

- ➔ The majority of every other party's voters agreed with the statement that "non-white British citizens who were born in this country are just as 'British' as white citizens born in this country", but only 35% of BNP voters did, with 44% disagreeing.
- ➔ Large majorities of every party's supporters agreed that there was no difference in intelligence between black and white people except for BNP supporters, where only 41% agreed.
- ➔ Almost half (49%) of BNP supporters thought employers should discriminate on grounds of race in favour of white people (compared to 11% in the general population).
- ➔ 58% thought most crime was committed by immigrants (22% in the general population). 72% of BNP supporters wanted the government to encourage voluntary repatriation, compared to 27% of the country as a whole.

The EDL: violent racists and fascists

A new violent fascist threat on the streets of the UK

➔ **THE EDL IS RACIST**, particularly targeting Muslims. The EDL has staged provocative demonstrations in towns and cities around the country, attempting to stir up anti-Muslim racism and hatred. They want to divide our communities. Supporters have been filmed chanting 'Burn a mosque down.' A series of arson and other physical attacks on mosques, community centres and the sites of proposed new mosques have taken place in areas where the EDL is active.

➔ **THE EDL IS RIDDLED WITH FASCISTS.** EDL leader 'Tommy Robinson' – real name Stephen Yaxley Lennon – is a former member of the fascist British National Party. Founder EDL member Chris Renton was also in the BNP, as were other leading figures. Supporters have frequently been photographed giving Hitler's 'siege heil' salute.



EDL supporter

➔ **THE EDL IS VIOLENT.** Its core supporters are members of football hooligan firms who have joined forces to form a racist street army. EDL demonstrations have regularly descended into violence. Supporters have rampaged through town centres – two Asian men were beaten up during a recent EDL demo in Dagenham, with one suffering four fractures to his face. In Luton, Asian residents had their windows smashed and EDL graffiti daubed on their homes hours after an EDL demo.

The EDL lies and is a danger to us all

➔ **THE EDL IS A DANGER TO US ALL.** It started by targeting the Muslim community. Now it is increasingly aiming its violence at other traditional targets of fascism, physically attacking trade union demos, anti-racist and socialist meetings and anti-cuts protestors as well as black and Asian people. EDL leader 'Tommy Robinson' has issued threats to school and college students protesting over tuition fees. EDL thugs have even invaded a trade union and community bookshop, News from Nowhere, in Liverpool.

➔ **THE EDL LIES** when it claims it has the support of minority groups such as Hindus, Sikhs, Jewish and LGBT people. Its attempts to recruit from these groups have failed miserably.

Jewish, Sikh and Hindu organisations have all spoken out publicly to condemn the EDL and have refused to be used by the racists and fascists. When EDL supporters tried to whip up Islamophobia under cover of a supposed LGBT 'pride' event in east London, local LGBT organisations refused to let the racists hijack the traditions of Pride. The local LGBT groups made clear their opposition to both homophobia and Islamophobia and forced the cancellation of the EDL-linked event.

➔ **THE EDL IS TRYING TO CREATE A STREET MOVEMENT** to terrorise ethnic minority communities and attack socialist and trade union organisations. They want to create hatred and division. In Tower Hamlets in September 2011 we showed how to stop them.

LET'S UNITE TO STOP THEM



BNP meltdown in 2011 elections

Overview election 2011

The 2011 elections were a humiliation for the fascist British National Party (BNP), but a victory for all the anti-fascist campaigners who distributed hundreds of thousands of leaflets and tabloids urging voters to Stop the BNP.

However, anti-fascists cannot be complacent. The BNP's electoral support is clearly declining. The only way it will be resurrected is if mainstream political parties make concessions to racism that serve to legitimise far-right and fascist parties and make them appear less extreme.

David Cameron's attack on multiculturalism shows that the scapegoating of Muslims and other communities remains a real problem. Lessons should be learnt from France where the Front National's vote decreased in 2007, but concessions to racism by president Sarkozy — the ban against the full face veil and the expulsion of Roma communities — has led to an increase in the FN's vote.



EDL street thugs

Alongside the visible crumbling of the BNP over the last couple of years, we have seen the dangerous growth of the English Defence League (EDL) — the racist thugs with fascists in its midst — whose leader "Tommy Robinson" is a former BNP member.

Every anti-fascist will celebrate the BNP's miserable election results. But the growth and direction of the EDL are cause for grave concern.

2011 wipeout

The BNP won no new seats on 5 May, retaining only two of the 11 seats it was defending. It lost all of its seats in Stoke-on-Trent, one in Boston, one in Burnley, and two in Leicester. The only two seats it successfully defended were in Queensberry in Bradford and East Goscote in Charnwood, where they sneaked in with five votes.

In less than 12 months the BNP have lost 12 seats in Barking and Dagenham council, and in the last 18 months been taken from nine members to none in Stoke-on-Trent. The BNP have not won a seat in Stoke since 2008 and have lost the last two elections for council seats in the Hapton with Park ward in Burnley — where the last remaining BNP councillor will be up for election in 2012 — the BNP had 8 councillors in 2003.

Around the country, BNP votes have slumped, with candidates often reaching only half or less of the percentages they took in 2007 — the last time the same seats were contested.

BNP vote in local elections: 2000–11			
Year	Candidates	Seats won	Total Seats
2000	17	0	0
2001	4	0	0
2002	67	3	3
2003	217	13	16
2004	312	14	21
2005	41	0	21
2006	363	33	48
2007	744	10	50
2008	612	15	55
2010	745	2	25
2011	268	2	12

In 2001, 2005 and 2010 local polls were held on the same day as a general election. The high turnout led to the BNP winning less seats than in previous elections.

Unite Against Fascism

Football Campaign

The racist and increasingly fascist English Defence League (EDL) are organising against a backdrop of recession, racism and virulent Islamophobia. One of the ways in which they organise is through football. The EDL uses social media to gain footholds among fans within “firms” at various clubs.

It is no coincidence that their forebears in this are the National Front, BNP and the British Movement. Of course there is resistance to these racists which, in a modest way, UAF football fans are part of. From Celtic to Exeter UAF football supporters have acted against the poison of the EDL.

Working with Kick It Out (KIO) and Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) we have done a variety of imaginative activities to try to enhance the gut anti-racism of many of our fellow fans. UAF football fans leafleted over 30 grounds last season in all of the major leagues — from Exeter City to the high flying Manchester City. We estimate that UAF fans have given out around 35,000 leaflets at grounds this season, in some cases financed by local trade unions.



Members of Cambridge UAF were joined by fans of Cambridge United to leaflet the club's game with Newport

Victory in Tower Hamlets

Saturday 3rd September 2011 in Tower Hamlets – a huge victory to stop the EDL coming to the Borough.

The attempt by the EDL to hold a demonstration through the heart of one of the most multicultural areas in the country, aimed at the East London Mosque, one of the key centres of London's Muslim communities, was always an evident racist and Islamophobic provocation.

In the event the EDL could not hold any kind of event in Tower Hamlets, while a large, peaceful anti-fascist event went ahead on Whitechapel Road.

The event, organised by United East End and Unite Against Fascism, was a strong display of unity with trade unions, faith communities, LGBT and other communities showing solidarity with Muslim communities against Islamophobia, racism and fascism.

Mayor Lutfur Rahman not only opened the event, but stayed with the community right to the end.



Anti-fascists in Tower Hamlets

How the EDL was defeated in Tower Hamlets

The lessons of 3rd September are clear.

The EDL can be defeated through unity of the community under attack:

- ➔ a political campaign, insisting that they should not be allowed to enter an area to threaten its residents with violence. This can force the government and the state to take action to prevent the EDL's provocations, but their action cannot be relied on, so it was accompanied by...
- ➔ ...the broadest possible, peaceful, mobilisation of the community and wider anti-fascist movement on the streets to counter the racists.

Both these strategies were built on the unity of a range of forces locally and nationally:

- ➔ the national anti-fascist movement in Unite Against Fascism;
- ➔ the local response brought together in United East End that included faith representatives, trade unions, local community activists of all backgrounds, students, LGBT groups and many others;
- ➔ the East London Mosque, the London Muslim Centre and key local Muslim organisations like the Islamic Forum Europe;
- ➔ and the leadership offered by Tower Hamlets Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his office.

5-point strategy to defeat the BNP

Successes in Oldham and recently Barking and Dagenham show what must be done to defeat the BNP.

From the Unite Against Fascism briefing *Consequences of the election of the BNP to the European Parliament* (Feb 2010), adapted by LARAG (March 2010)

1 A mass anti-racist movement

which confronts the BNP's racism and Islamophobia head-on, exposing their racist lies about house allocation, crime, immigration and so on.

2 Uniting those most immediately threatened by fascism with all other anti-fascists

so uniting the trade unions with Black, Asian, Muslim, Jewish and other minority ethnic communities alongside **all other opponents of fascism** including political parties, religious groups, lesbian and gay people and the media.

3

A movement on the ground

The BNP seeks to impose views by force not Parliament, so the movement to oppose them must be able to mobilise mass action and defend communities under attack.

4

Flexible tactics

We need every means of opposition, carefully chosen: e.g. mass leafleting at elections, media briefings, the internet, festivals and mobilisations to stop intimidation.

5

Support the benefits of a multicultural society

through local and national initiatives such as by the GLA under Ken Livingstone; mass events and festivals like Love Music Hate Racism; campaigns opposing racial and religious discrimination like One Society Many Cultures. We need to bring people together and celebrate the contribution of **all** cultures to society.

Photo: Jonathan Dodds



Celebrate London's diversity ...



"Multicultural Britain should be celebrated. Immigration is not to blame for unemployment or housing problems, and does not negatively affect the economy. The BNP, however, tell us this is the case. We want them to know they are not fooling us."

Drew McConnell of Babyshambles.



Unite Against Fascism is a national campaign working to alert British society to the rising threat of the extreme right, in particular the British National Party (BNP), which is gaining an electoral foothold in this country. We aim to unite the broadest possible spectrum of society to counter this threat, bringing together Black, Jewish, Muslim communities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, MPs, trade unionists, celebrities, students and young people.

Until recently this country has not seen the kind of rise of fascism that has blighted many countries elsewhere in Europe. However in May 2008 the BNP gained a London Assembly member, and in the June 2009 Euro-elections the BNP polled nearly a million votes and gained two MEPs in England.

Unless challenged, the BNP's current level of support means there is a real danger that it will increase its presence in elected institutions.

The BNP can be defeated if the majority of people in this country who abhor fascism use their vote. Join our campaign to maximise opposition to fascism.

South East London unites against fascism

Lewisham Anti-Racist Action Group, as part of **Unite Against Fascism** and with its supporters in South East London, is working to bring together anti-fascists across all of London, particularly East and South East London.

Please sign up if you want to become a part of this South East London united front to defeat the BNP. We need your help now to stop fascism making further advances.



Lewisham Anti-Racist Action Group

For the latest information on the campaign against fascism today:

- ➔ Please make a stand: join Unite Against Fascism — www.uaf.org.uk
- ➔ Please sign our contact sheet: keep informed of local activity, email larag@talktalk.net or go to <http://naar.org.uk/larag/>
- ➔ Please take leaflets — help get the message out!



“Make sure you go and use your vote when the elections come up. Votes are so powerful... use your vote and make a difference in your area.”

**— Lethal Bizzle,
MOBO award
winning grime MC**

“The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.”

**Albert Einstein — Refugee to Britain from the
Holocaust in Nazi Germany**

Uniting against fascism

Urging people to use their vote

1	"Honestly now, would you prefer your kid growing up in Oldham and Burnley or 1930s Germany? It would be better for your child to grow up there." Mark Collett, leader of the Young BNP on Channel 4 in 2004
2	"Meanwhile, the indigenous side in the low-to-medium level civil war brewing in this country is getting its training... It's all going to get very messy." Nick Griffin's blog on BNP website
3	"Rape is simply sex. Women enjoy sex, so rape cannot be such a terrible physical ordeal ... [It] is like suggesting force-feeding a woman chocolate cake is a heinous offence." Then BNP London organiser and GLA candidate, Nick Eriksen
4	AIDS is "a friendly disease because blacks, drug users and gays have it." Mark Collett, leader of the Young BNP on Channel 4 in 2004

STOP the BNP

use your vote: 4 June

020 7833 4916
www.uaf.org.uk



unite the UNION unite against fascism LoveMusic Hate Racism present

Jon McClure aka The Reverend (Reverend & The Makers) live performance
+ screening of footage from the LMHR Carnival at Victoria Park and hot off the press film of Kaiser Chiefs in Rotherham

Unite to stop the BNP in 2009! TUC Conference fringe

Monday 8th September 2008 8pm-10.00pm Club Revenge, 32-34 Old Steine (opposite Brighton Pier), Brighton BN1 1EL

Featuring live performance from Jon McClure aka The Reverend (Reverend & The Makers) - plus others
Speakers include: Derek Simpson, Unite the union - Billy Hayes CWU - Glyn Ford MEP - Christine Blower NUT - Martin Gould SERTUC - Sasha Callaghan UCU - Jerry Bartlett NASUWT - Hugh Lanning PCS - and Wes Streeting NUS, who will be announcing next year's Carnival and anti-fascist campaign to stop the BNP in June 2009 European elections.
TUC Conference delegates free with ID, others donations on the door

STOP THE NAZI BNP

Supported by: BECL, connect, ECU, NASUWT, SERTUC, TSSA, UCU, UNISON

Getting the truth out to young people

Getting the truth out about fascists

BARKING AND DAGENHAM unite against fascism

Oppose the racist myths on housing — oppose the fascist BNP

The fascist British National Party (BNP) is spreading racist lies about access to council housing, including that migrants receive priority access to housing. For the last two years, the fascists have promoted their racist lie that African people are receiving grants so live in Barking and Dagenham. The BNP have been spreading these lies in order to cause division and gain support. In the year running up to the BNP gaining 12 council seats in Barking and Dagenham, racist attacks have increased whilst they have fallen across the rest of London, where there are not primordials.

The reality is that immigrants DO NOT receive priority for council housing which is allocated on the basis of a need. The majority of African and other Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) live in private accommodation. Minority communities should not be blamed for the shortage in housing and public services.

The racist myths promoted by the BNP must be exposed and challenged.

The fascist BNP opposes plans for new housing in Barking & Dagenham
Fascist BNP councillors voted against an amendment calling on the government to lift the cap restricting the ability of councils to build new housing at the Barking and Dagenham Council meeting on 6 December 2006. This vote shows the BNP are interested in housing — only in whipping up racism and dividing the communities of Barking and Dagenham. The BNP flourish in a climate of racist myths against black communities, Muslims, migrants and asylum seekers.

Exposing the racist myths on housing
David Woods, director of Housing at Barking and Dagenham Council, made Housing magazine, 10 May: "The mythology that we're trying to fight around here is seekers and immigrants."

Adam Simpson director of Shelter the homelessness charity: "The failure to build new homes and the devastating impact of the Right to Buy leaves the small amount of social (council) housing stock vulnerable to being exploited for political means. The real problem is the desperate shortage of social housing."

This exhibition is available for loan from larag@talktalk.net

Stop the fascist BNP



Use your vote in Downham ward on Thursday 19th February



Local anti-fascist activity

Join Unite Against Fascism!



— www.uaf.org.uk