

## UNION POLICY (GENERAL MEETING - (19.11.08))

### BEAT THE BNP

#### THIS UNION NOTES

1. Section 1, Article 2B of the BNP's constitution states "The British National Party... is wholly opposed to any form of racial integration between British and non European peoples. It is therefore committed to stemming and reversing the tide of non-white immigration".
2. During a secretly filmed speech at Leeds Crown Court, Nick Griffin described Islam as " a vicious, wicked faith". At a lecture entitled "The dangers of Islam" at Michigan State University in January 2007, Nick Griffin declared "Muslims gang rape women in Norway and other cultures. Only Muslims do this".
3. At the same lecture he told protesters he would shove "homosexuals back in the closet and "kill them". Following the 1999 Soho bombings Nick Griffin stated that "The TV footage of dozens of gay demonstrators flaunting their perversions in front of the world's journalists showed just why so many ordinary people find these creatures so repulsive".
4. Nick Griffin described the Holocaust as the "Hoax of the Twentieth Century".
5. In recent years number of votes for the BNP has grown from 47,219 in the General Election of 2001 to 192,850 in 2005. In May 2008 BNP candidate Richard Barnbrook was elected to the Greater London Assembly.
6. In June 2009 Nick Griffin will be standing in Manchester as the BNP's number one candidate in the European elections.
7. That point (f) of section 1.3 of the University of Manchester Students' Union constitution commits the Union to "oppos(ing) discrimination against persons on any grounds" and that the Union is not compelled "to provide a platform for advocating such discrimination and those the Union believes will incite racial hatred".
8. That Trade Unions have always played a leading role in standing up to fascism.
9. That the National Union of Students has a policy of "No Platform For Fascists", as do the following Trade Unions: UCU, CWU, PSC, Unite, NUJ, NUT, Unison, USDAW and UCATT.
10. The campaigns against the BNP in particular and fascist organisations in general being led by Hope Not Hate, Unite Against Fascism, Searchlight and Love Music Hate Racism.
11. The decisive role played by mass mobilisations against the National Front at Lewisham, Southall and elsewhere in the 1970's and against the British Union of Fascists "blackshirts" in Cable Street in 1936.
12. That the past 12 months alone have seen Unite Against Fascism (UAF) mobilise large numbers against BNP rallies and meetings in Oxford, London, Derbyshire, Stoke and Blackpool.
13. The role of Rock Against Racism carnivals in galvanising opposition to the National Front in the 1970's and 1980's.
14. The Love Music Hate Racism (LMHR) carnival, attended by over 100,000 people in the run up to this year's London elections.
15. That a "Stop the BNP in the Northwest" rally and meeting has been called by UAF in Manchester Town Hall on the 20th November. That there are plans for another LMHR carnival, this time in the North in the run up to the European elections.

16. That LMHR and its antiracist message is already promoted by the Union's Pangaea Festival.

### **THIS UNION BELIEVES**

1. That the BNP is a fascist organisation.
2. That the Union has a responsibility to protect itself and its members – particularly those from ethnic minorities, LGBT, with disabilities, or otherwise targeted by fascists – from the threat of fascism.
3. That Nick Griffin stands a very strong chance of being elected as a member of the European Parliament. Particularly because candidates are elected through a party list system.
4. That if Nick Griffin is elected, he will gain a platform in the public eye from which to promote his fascist agenda, and will have access to our public money to do this.
5. That turnout in European elections is generally quite low, and that mobilising an anti-fascist vote – both within the student body and beyond – could make all the difference.
6. That inviting fascists to debate in universities and Student Unions' gives them an air of legitimacy, and creates an atmosphere hostile to ethnic minority, LGBT and disabled students.
7. As a student body that doesn't tolerate racism, Islamophobia or anti-Semitism we have a duty to take action.
8. That while it is important to mobilise an antifascist vote, fascists do not operate solely through elections and opposition to facism must take in more than just voting.
9. That wherever fascism has been stopped, it has been through mass mobilisations, and that a serious antifascist campaign needs to engage with, unite and mobilise large numbers of people.

### **THIS UNION RESOLVES**

1. To actively campaign against the BNP, and to defend its members from fascist intimidation.
2. To support and affiliate to antifascist organisations including Hope Not Hate, Unite Against Fascism, Love Music Hate Racism and Searchlight, to promote their events and mobilisations against the BNP.
3. To launch a campaign to mobilise students to register to vote in the European elections. That the Campaigns Officer and Anti-Racism Secretary work with the above groups and with Manchester City Council to mobilise the student vote against the BNP before the 28th February 2009.
4. To uphold a policy of No Platform for Fascists. That no Union Officer must speak on the same platform as a fascist – including members of the BNP – and that fascists never participate in Union events.
5. To send a delegation, including members of the Executive, to tomorrows UAF meeting, in order to link up with the mass movement against the BNP.
6. To support the LMHR carnival in the North. To include the LMHR logo, and where appropriate, an antiracist text, on the publicity to all musical events hosted by the Union.