

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
AGAINST  
RACISM

## Labour Party Conference 2007

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# Multiculturalism's contribution defended

The idea that multiculturalism and migration is a threat to British jobs, social cohesion and way of life has been promoted heavily in the right-wing media and by the pressure group Migration Watch over the summer. It was also harnessed by the fascist British National Party to win a record 292,911 votes in May's elections.

This flawed analysis continues to be promoted despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary showing the success of Britain's multicultural society. For example, the TUC's recent study, *The Economics of Migration*, explains how the British economy is benefiting from migrant workers, who pay more in taxes than the value of the



public services they receive and that immigration has not depressed jobs or wages. Treasury figures show that immigration is responsible for around 10 per cent of economic growth.

Research by academics including Dr Ludi Simpson and Prof Danny Dorling has demonstrated that society is becoming more integrated, not less.

UNISON has also highlighted the significant role migrant workers play in the public services, where, for example, 58 per cent of new doctors were born overseas and 44,000 overseas nurses worked in the NHS last year alone. As UNISON General Secretary Dave Prentis, points out 'it's about time that many of the opinion formers woke up to the fact that migrant workers play a vital role in the very fabric of our public services and we should be more supportive and proud of their contribution'.

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Fringe meeting

## UNITE to stop the BNP in 2008

5.45-7.45,  
Monday 24th September

Punshon Methodist Church,  
Exeter Road, Bournemouth

Speakers:

Ken Livingstone, Chair, Unite Against Fascism •  
Daud Abdullah, Deputy General Secretary, Muslim  
Council of Britain • Edie Friedman, Jewish Council for  
Racial Equality • Glyn Ford MEP • Lee Jasper, NAAR •  
Sadiq Khan MP • Frances O'Grady, Deputy General  
Secretary, TUC • Gemma Tumelty, NUS President



UNISON and NAAR invite you to their joint **fringe meeting**

### One Society Many Cultures: Multiculturalism's contribution to a dynamic society

Speakers include:

Doreen Lawrence OBE  
Sadiq Khan MP  
Professor Tariq Modood  
Dr Edie Friedman  
Dr Mohammed Abdul Bari, MCB  
Mohammed Azam, NAAR  
Claude Moraes MEP  
Bev Miller, UNISON (chair)

Tues 25th  
September

5.45pm

Bistro Area  
Lampeter Hotel  
Exeter Park Rd  
Bournemouth  
Buffet provided

• opposing racism • defending multiculturalism •  
celebrating diversity

## Congo anti-deportation victory must not be overturned

In August, a successful campaign across the country led to the suspension by the High Court of large-scale deportations of asylum seekers to the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Refugee Council, Liberty, Amnesty International, NUJ, National Assembly Against Racism and many others joined the Sukula family who initiated the campaign against the deportations. Over 50 MPs had signed an EDM in June calling for the deportations to be halted.

Mr Justice Collins ruled that no one should be returned to the DRC whilst the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal is considering evidence about the safety of the DRC.

An *Observer* newspaper interview, with a former member of the DRC secret police who had carried out torture has subsequently added to the compelling evidence about the danger facing deportees to the DRC. Evidence to be submitted to the AIT will show that several Congolese people who were deported in February 2007 have since disappeared.

The NAAR is joining with others to call on deportations not to be resumed when the Tribunal concludes at the end of September.

The NAAR is working to challenge racist stereotypes about asylum seekers and refugees. For copies of our evidence-based 'racist myths and facts' briefing please visit the NAAR stall at the Labour Party conference or our website [www.naar.org.uk](http://www.naar.org.uk).



## Slavery memorial call

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. NAAR is supporting calls from UNESCO, Diane Abbott and Dawn Butler MPs, the Mayor of London and others for the 23rd August to be made an annual national memorial day. The date marks the beginning of the successful

great slave rebellion in Haiti. An annual memorial and apology from the Prime Minister would help raise understanding of the central role of Britain's institutions in the barbaric industry, the lead contribution of enslaved Africans in ending it and the continued legacy of racism and global inequality.

## Calls for stronger measures against discrimination

Consultation has now closed on the government's Single Equality Green Paper 'A Framework for Fairness: Proposals for a Single Equality Bill'. The proposals have been broadly rejected by trade unions, statutory and campaigning equality bodies, for failing to establish a basis for an effective and enforceable equality law. In early September, the TUC Congress agreed to campaign for the new law to include the duty on all employers in all sectors to promote equality and eliminate discrimination for all strands of equality; a right for trade unions to take class actions; compulsory equality audits for all employers in all sectors and public procurement to require organisations to be compliant

with discrimination law and promoting equality. Proposals in the Green Paper undermine the advances of the last ten years, particularly as a result of the Lawrence Inquiry, and most notably the public sector duties to promote equality, recognising the institutional nature of disadvantage. A move away from that approach, if enshrined in law, would represent a serious step backwards. The government must now take on board the positive proposals in scores of submissions to the consultation and vastly improve the draft bill.

● Request a copy of the NAAR's submission by emailing [info@naar.org.uk](mailto:info@naar.org.uk). You can also access the submissions from other bodies from the NAAR website on [www.naar.org.uk](http://www.naar.org.uk)

# Help kick the BNP off Facebook

**M**ore than 5,000 people have joined former Home Office minister Fiona McTaggart, Keith Vaz MP and Claude Moraes MEP in a campaign to remove BNP pages from social networking site Facebook. Several major companies including First Direct, Vodafone, Virgin Media, the AA, Halifax, Prudential and the government's Central Office of Information withdrew their advertising from Facebook amid concerns that they were being associated with BNP pages.

An investigation by Unite Against Fascism uncovered racist images and postings on BNP-linked pages, contravening Facebook's code of conduct. A 'Vote BNP and Save the World' group called on readers to 'help fight evil and win the war of cleansing Britain', including a Ku Klux Klan image with a caption 'Local BNP meeting, blacks welcome.' Another commented 'What to do with gollywogs' — 'Hang 'em on your curtain pole and leave em there... nice ornament.' Another image equates Islam with murder. Facebook deleted this image accepting that it broke their terms, but it has since resurfaced on another BNP supporter group.

These grotesquely racist pages, advocating violence and evoking lynchings, add to evidence

that the fascist BNP is not a legitimate political party, but a dangerous fascist party that stands in the tradition of Hitler's Nazis.

In this May's elections, the BNP gained record votes and fielded an unprecedented 744 candidates. Although the BNP failed to translate this advance into seats, it is clear that they continue to pose a real threat to society.

Since it was launched, the UAF's joint petition with NUS on Facebook has been signed by one thousand people a week including by young people, parliamentarians, faith and community groups. UAF has also been contacted by parents concerned that their children could be exposed to fascist propaganda. UAF demands that Facebook immediately removes these groups.

● Download campaigning materials and order "fascists off facebook" postcards or sign the petition at [www.uaf.org.uk](http://www.uaf.org.uk). You can also help by promoting voter registration drives to help stop the BNP in next May's elections and by supporting Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations.



## Multiculturalism's contribution

*(continued from p1)*

Despite this evidence and the positive approach of the trade unions towards migration and diversity, the government has moved to tighten restrictions on skilled migrant workers coming to Britain. Gordon Brown announced at the TUC Congress new language tests expected to reduce by 35,000 a year the number skilled of migrants and emphasised an employment strategy of a 'British job on offer for every British worker'.

Together with UNISON, NAAR has launched the 'One Society, Many Cultures' campaign to counter the attacks on multiculturalism. The campaign celebrates Britain's diversity and defends the hard-fought-for right of people to lead their lives as they wish, as long as they do no harm to others. Alongside strong action against discrimination, this is the only way to achieve a cohesive, integrated society and defeat fascists such as the BNP.

● Please visit us at our stall in the exhibition area and join us at our fringe meeting on Tuesday 25th September for details of the initiative and how you can get involved.



## Mandela honoured

**On 29 August thousands of people joined Nelson Mandela as he spoke at the unveiling of a statue in Parliament Square in honour of his struggle against apartheid and racism. The ceremony was addressed by Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Mayor of London Ken Livingstone Lord Attenborough and anti-apartheid campaigner Wendy Woods. Mr Mandela said 'though this statue is of one man, it should in fact symbolise all those who resisted oppression, especially in my country.' The ceremony was the culmination of seven years of campaigning by the Mayor of London.**

## Coalition to defend freedom of religious and cultural expression

A coalition of organisations to defend freedom of religious and cultural expression has been formed by representatives of Muslim, Jewish and other faith communities, trade unions, the Mayor of London, representatives of anti-racist organisations and many others. Its aim is to oppose attacks on the fundamental freedoms of religion and culture within the framework of multiculturalism. NAAR supports the coalition and encourages other organisations to join it.

### Statement

“We believe that our most fundamental human rights include the rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and cultural expression.

These rights, which must be defended for all groups in society, are presently severely threatened by the rise in hostility and attacks against the Muslim communities — echoing in many ways experiences of religious groups and communities such as different Christian faiths, Jewish people, Sikhs, Hindus and others.

It took hundreds of years of struggles, including international and civil wars, to establish the freedoms of religious and cultural expression and these must be vigorously upheld subject only to the proportionate protection of the human rights and freedoms of others.

We believe that at this time it is necessary for democrats, of all faiths and none, to come together to defend these fundamental freedoms, which are the cornerstones of liberal and democratic society.”

For more information email [info@naar.org.uk](mailto:info@naar.org.uk)

# National DNA database shows racist bias

Civil rights organisation Liberty’s recent report ‘Britain’s Privacy — Casualty in the War on Terror?’ raised alarm at the disproportional presence of DNA from Black and Asian people. Almost 40 per cent of Black people and 13 per cent of Asians have their DNA on the National DNA database, compared to only 9 per cent of white people. The samples are collected upon arrest and kept on the database, regardless of whether the person is charged or convicted of any crime. Liberty is calling for the samples where there has been no conviction to be removed from the database and for this process to be made easier. Liberty’s report was followed by a further report by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, which also recommended that the samples collected from innocent people should be removed from the database. Last year, the National Black Police Association raised concerns about the disproportionality

in the database, stating that Black men in particular are 4 times more likely to be stopped and searched and released without being charged.

Meanwhile in France, the proposals to introduce DNA tests for visitors to France applying to stay for more than three months have been met by opposition from migrants’ groups, civil liberties organisations and French MPs. The French government is introducing a new and more draconian immigration law, which includes the right to ask for a DNA test when the French visa official ‘has doubts’ over how genuine the applicants’ papers are. Scores of people mainly from Africa will be affected and there are fears that the existing strict rules that apply to the request of DNA tests limited to court rulings will be undermined.

## Make an anti-racist pledge today: Join NAAR



The National Assembly Against Racism campaigns against racism in all its manifestations. With national black organisations playing a leading role – in alliance with the Jewish and Muslim communities, the trade unions, the student movement, religious groups and many others, NAAR has set about building a mass anti-racist movement uniting all those who believe racism must be fought and not appeased.

Name.....  
Address.....  
.....  
Tel..... Email.....

Affiliation rates: Individuals waged: £15 unwaged/students: £3; Organisations Local unfunded: £25; National unfunded/regional/local funded: £50; National trade unions/funded organisations: £100. Please make cheques payable to NAAR and return to: NAAR, 28 Commercial St, London E1 6LS. Tel: 020 7247 9907. Email: [info@naar.org.uk](mailto:info@naar.org.uk) Web: [www.naar.org.uk](http://www.naar.org.uk)