

Summer 2004

**unite**  
against fascism

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# BNP receive high vote but defeated in Euro and London elections

The European Parliament, London Assembly and local government elections on June 10th were significant in the fight against fascism and racism. The British National Party (BNP) posed a real danger of making its biggest electoral breakthrough in its history, by winning a seat in the European Parliament and Greater London Assembly. However they failed to achieve this. This outcome must be welcomed by all those opposed to the hatred and division peddled by the BNP and be put in context. In London the BNP came within less than 6000 votes of an Assembly seat. In the European elections, they received eight times the number of votes that were cast in 1999, the last European elections. Without a concerted national campaign, the outcome could have been very different. The formation of Unite Against Fascism, a new national campaign bringing together the trade union movement, the anti-racist and anti-fascist movement, the black and Asian communities, faith communities, lesbian and gay communities and all those opposed to fascism played a pivotal role in the BNP's defeat.

## BNP's electoral performance

The BNP received a very high national vote with 808,200 votes (4.9%). In 1999 at the previous European elections the BNP received 102,607 votes. In London the BNP gained 90,365 votes - 4.71% of the votes cast. The BNP were 5,720 votes short of the 5% barrier needed to win a seat on the Assembly. Their vote almost doubled from the 47,670 votes they



received in 2000. They polled over 6% of the vote in the East Midlands, North East and North West and received 7.5% in the West Midlands and 8.04% in Yorkshire. The BNP came closest to winning a seat in the West Midlands - they failed to win a European Parliament seat by only 23,185 votes, followed by the North West where 32,574 more votes would have won them a seat. The BNP also gained 14 councillors in June, bringing their total to 21 including 4 in Bradford and 3 in Epping Forest.

## High turnout defeated BNP

UAF's strategy was to mobilise the anti-fascist majority of society in the elections and encourage a high turnout in the elections. This strategy was successful. The national turnout in the

European elections was 38% - a big increase from 25% at the last elections in 1999. Turnout more than doubled to 40.6% in the North West, where the majority mobilised against BNP leader Nick Griffin who stood as a candidate. In 1999 turnout was the lowest in the country at 19.4% in the North West. In London the turnout was higher than the 2000 elections at 37%, up from 32%. The high turnout was aided by all postal vote ballots in the North West, Yorkshire, East Midlands and the North East. However the turnout was still high in areas that did not have all postal vote ballots such as London, the South West and West Midlands - indicating strong mobilisation of the anti-BNP vote.

## Next steps in the campaign

Unite Against Fascism will continue campaigning against the BNP in the run up to the next general election. The European elections helped the BNP to increase its geographical spread and open up new areas of support. The BNP will seek to use the general election to create pools of support for local election breakthroughs and for success in elections conducted under proportional representation. Although the BNP did not make the breakthrough they expected they came very close. With over 800,000 votes nationally the BNP continues to pose a serious threat to the fabric of our multicultural society.

**Join Unite Against Fascism!**  
(see back page)

# St. Albans stop the National Front!

**S**t. Albans Unite Against Fascism successfully mobilised against the National Front. The NF had planned to march past St. Albans Abbey against gay priest Canon Jeffrey John being installed as dean of the Cathedral. The local UAF group organised a successful counter demonstration - supported by Stonewall, the Lesbian and Gay Coalition Against Racism, NATFHE, UNISON, CWU, NAAR and Broxbourne Against Racism - uniting the lesbian and gay communities, trade unions and black communities. The campaign was so successful the National front failed to turn up!

**Please help us to fight fascism. Join UAF and set up a monthly standing order.**

# Racist BNP exposed in BBC's Secret Agent documentary

**T**he BBC's Secret Agent documentary shown on 15 July, provided the latest evidence that the British National Party (BNP) is a racist organisation committed to spreading bigoted race hate and inciting violence. The documentary included BNP members openly admitting to racially motivated crimes. BNP leader Nick Griffin stated that his views on the Islamic faith – describing it as a “wicked, vicious faith” – admitting that such views could earn him a prison sentence. The programme also included leading member of the BNP and founder of the BNP John Tyndall saying that Africans and Asians have only produced “black magic, witchcraft, voodoo, cannibalism and Aids” and making an anti-Semitic attack on the leader of the Conservative Party. UAF has said that charges should be brought against individual members of the BNP for incitement to racial hatred



and those who have publicly admitted to violent crimes and many members of the public would welcome a discussion with the police, CPS and politicians on what action could now be taken against the race hatred and incitement to violence demonstrated on our screens. As a senior barrister noted comments by Nick Griffin and former BNP leader John Tyndall are designed to stir up racial hatred.

# unite against fascism

Please return this form to

Unite Against Fascism, PO Box 36871, London WC1X 9XT

### Minimum membership fees

**Standard** £10 per year, **concessions** £3 per year  
**Organisations** local £20, regional/national unfunded £40, national trade unions and other national organisations under 100,000 members £100, over 100,000 members £200

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