

THEY SHALL NOT PASS



The spread of fascism across Europe has caught many anti-racist and left-wing groups on the hop. Anti-Fascist Action (AFA) has been predicting such an upsurge for several years. While many were arguing that fascism did not present a threat, AFA argued that while it was true that fascist organisations like the National Front (NF) and British National Party (BNP) were still very small and weak, their potential for growth was enormous, and in any case, wasn't it better to deal with them while they were weak, rather than wait for them to become strong. This pamphlet explains how AFA has kept the fascists out of Manchester for a decade using a twin track policy of physical and ideological opposition to fascism. It explains why it is in the interests of all working class people, regardless of colour, sex, sexuality or religious persuasion to oppose fascism, and explains how you can get involved in the fight against fascism. This is.....

An Introduction to

MANCHESTER ANTI-FASCIST ACTION

Fascism

WHAT IT IS.....

Many people think of fascists as just a bunch of organised racists, and while it would be impossible to join a fascist group without being a racist, fascism represents far more than just racism.

Without wishing to underplay the special threat that fascism poses for black and asian people etc, it is necessary to look at the threat that fascism poses for the whole of the working class if we are to fully understand it.

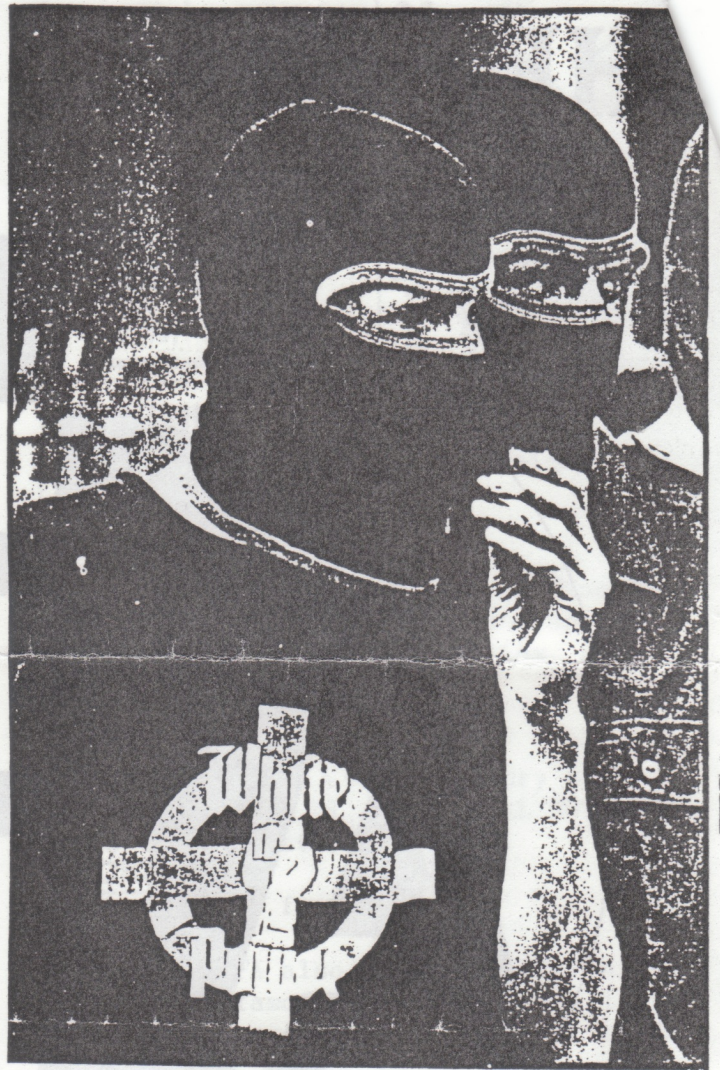
Fascism operates by blaming society's problems on somebody else, usually members of numerically smaller and weaker sections of society such as blacks, asians, jewish people, irish people, single-parents, gays, etc, etc, the list is endless. In doing this, fascism distracts the attention of working class people away from the real cause of society's many problems, the rich and powerful who own 87% of the country's wealth. This section of society has always been prepared to unleash fascist gangs on the working class to protect its interests. History has shown that in times of crisis the bosses will use fascism to beat the working class into line. In the past, fascists have been used as scab labour, as stormtroopers to attack those who speak out against injustice, and as screws and turnkeys to imprison those who dare to disagree.

Fascists are also nationalists. This means putting the interests of the State above the interests of those who live there. Under fascism there is no free speech, no right to organise in free trade unions and political parties, and no elections. In short, they would abolish democracy, and in every country in which they have got to power they have done just that.

THE FAR-RIGHT IN BRITAIN

BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY (BNP). The largest fascist group in Britain numbering 3-4,000 and growing. The BNP are particularly active in South and East London, East Midlands, and parts of the North. The BNP tend to concentrate on standing in local elections for publicity and recruitment purposes, but have been generally unsuccessful outside London.

NATIONAL FRONT (NF). Diminishing rapidly everywhere apart from Birmingham. 3-400 members.



BLOOD & HONOUR (B&H). Based around bone-head music scene. Hardcore neo-nazis of the stiff right arm variety. No actual membership, but subscribers believed to run into thousands. Many thousands more contacts abroad.

C18 (COMBAT ADOLF HITLER). Neo-nazi hit-squad, concentrates on attacking left-wing paper sales, book shops, marches, etc. No reliable figures available on membership.

KU KLUX KLAN (KKK). Genuine nutters. Have carried out cross-burnings in parts of East Midlands, South Coast, etc. 200 members.

Other smaller groups include the hardcore nazis of the **BRITISH NATIONAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (BNSM)**, and the **INTERNATIONAL THIRD POSITION (ITP)** who specialise in pseudo-green and pseudo-radical propaganda.



.....AND HOW.....

Anti-Fascist Action is an organisation dedicated to confronting fascism both physically and ideologically.

Ideological opposition to fascism can take many forms. We organise leaflets, public meetings, rallies, exhibitions, gigs, and a whole range of other activities. All our propaganda is geared towards cutting off the supply line of potential recruits to the fascist gangs, the white working class youth who the fascists use as cannon-fodder. In our propaganda we explain the anti-working class nature of fascism, as we believe that it requires more than simply calling the fascists nasty names to persuade people not to get involved with them. In this way we hope to be able to isolate the hardcore fascists,

This does not mean that AFA ignores the black and asian population, who are often at the sharp end of fascist aggression. AFA aims to build links with existing black and asian groups who share our aims. We recognise that many black people are highly suspicious of the 'white left'. Therefore we are looking to build a partnership based on mutual trust and understanding, and in that way transform reality.

Physical opposition to fascism can also take many forms. Sometimes it involves defending meetings from possible fascist attack, and sometimes it can involve physically attacking fascist marches and rallies. AFA has a policy of 'NO PLATFORM FOR FASCISTS' which means that whenever the fascists attempt to hold a rally, public meeting, paper sale, or march, then AFA will attempt to stop them. We do not believe that a political organisation whose sole reason for existence is to deny others the freedom of speech should be allowed the freedom of speech itself.

.....TO STOP IT.

LINKS



Manchester AFA is part of the AFA Northern Network which comprises various AFA groups from around the north of England. Northern Network is itself part of National AFA which has groups stretching the length of the country from Edinburgh to Plymouth. AFA has links with militant anti-fascist groups across Europe. AFA operates on a federal structure which means that each individual branch decides which tactics and strategies to use in their own area, as

long as they remain true to the principle of 'physical and ideological opposition'.



DANCE AND DEFEND

The importance that fascists attach to the music scene can be judged by the effort that neo-nazi boneheads put into attempts to stop certain bands such as Desmond Dekker, the Pogues, and the Angelic Upstarts a few years ago. These attempts were thwarted when AFA launched Cable Street Beat, which put on a series of well stewarded gigs which showed the fascists that they could expect opposition if they attempted any further disruption. In Manchester, AFA launched 'Dance and Defend', which has put on a series of gigs in the city, mainly to raise money for AFA's Welfare Fund. We welcome offers from any bands, DJ's, comedians, or whoever, who would fancy doing an AFA benefit.



WELFARE FUND

Physical opposition to fascism means that occasionally AFA members come into contact with the forces of law and order. This inevitably leads to expense of one kind or another, which AFA will do its best to help meet. We do this on the basis that if people do get arrested on AFA activities then it is only fair that AFA helps with any expenses that result. All donations to the Welfare Fund are gratefully received.

Anti-Fascist Action

OUR HISTORY

Manchester AFA was first launched in 1985, and from its inception it pursued a vigorous policy of physical chastisement of fascist gangs. This eventually forced the fascists out of Manchester, and led to the demise of the Manchester branch of the National Front, which had at one time been one of the largest branches in the country.

Following a period of relative inactivity, Manchester AFA held a public re-launch in November 1991 in response to threats by both the National Front and British National Party to stand candidates in Manchester during the 1992 General Election. This swift response forced both parties to change their plans, with the NF failing to stand a candidate in the North-West, and the BNP only standing in Rochdale.

During the BNP's election campaign in Rochdale, AFA completely disrupted BNP plans to hold public rallies in the town on 3 occasions, forcing them to work in closer co-operation with the police, or to plan their activities in secrecy. Since then we have physically disrupted BNP meetings and marches in Colne and Burnley, and forced the Manchester branch of the BNP to disband.

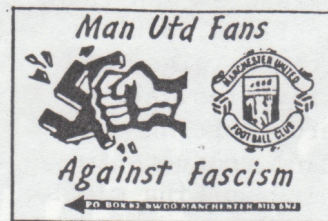
As well as disrupting fascist activities, we have also held many of our own activities to highlight the growing problem of the rise of far-right groups. We have held pickets of the German Embassy to highlight the growth of neo-nazi parties in Germany, held a rally to commemorate the first anniversary of the Rostock pogrom, handed out thousands of leaflets, held public meetings, produced stickers and bulletins, and put on numerous gigs and social events.

Manchester AFA also supports national anti-fascist events, such as the 'Battle for Waterloo' which completely disrupted plans by 'Blood & Honour' to hold a major public gig in London. We have supported all 3 'Unity Carnivals' in London and Newcastle, and have worked in conjunction with other AFA branches throughout the North to force the fascists onto the defensive.

Since its re-launch in 1991, Manchester AFA has caused fascists in the North-West more grief than even we imagined was possible. It is our avowed intention to continue in this vein until the job is finished.

Merchandise

Stickers $\frac{1}{2}$ actual size. Also available Man City, Stockport, and Bolton Wanderers against fascism.



MAGAZINES

FIGHTING TALK - Magazine of National AFA £1.

LOCAL BULLETINS

AFA - IN THE AREA - Bulletin of Manchester AFA. ANTI-FASCIST INFOS - round-up of national anti-fascist activities. Both 10p.

PAMPHLETS

GERMANY CALLING - A short history of British Fascism. £1. THEY SHALL NOT PASS - Intro to Manchester AFA. 10p.

STICKERS

stickers £1.50 for 50.

Manchester AFA also has a collection of German anti-fascist postcards. Available at 40p each, or £2 for 6 different cards.

Join AFA

In the fight against fascism in Britain, Anti-Fascist Action has a record that is second to none. Our unique combination of physical confrontation and ideological struggle has produced results time and again.

We say no platform for the fascists - no meetings, no marches, no paper sales, no leafleting - and we mean it, as the fascists know only too well. Our aim is to cause the maximum disruption to fascist activities.

But that doesn't mean that AFA only needs street-fighters. Far from it. Everyone has a role to play in AFA, whether they feel confident in physical confrontations or not.

None of our successes in physically confronting the fascists would have been possible without the contribution of non-combatants. From legal observers to scouts, from leafleters to people who can write articles or speak at meetings, AFA needs people with a whole range of skills if it is to continue to succeed.

There's a lot to do, so don't wait around. Join today.

Manchester AFA

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