

Anti-Fascist Action



Appeal to the Socialist Workers Party

Racism is on the rise throughout Europe. Britain is no exception to this dangerous trend. Over the last year there was a massive rise in reported racial attacks, like the cold blooded killing of Roian Adams on the Thamesmead estate. Countless other attacks have gone unreported.

It is in this climate that the fascist organisations, like the British National Party (BNP) and the Flag Group, are expanding their activities. In local elections in London the BNP have won disturbingly high numbers of votes on the basis of their "Rights for Whites" campaign. Down-trodden whites who feel abandoned by the labour movement are turning to fascism as a solution.

Fascist activities in East and South East London are encouraging the growth in the numbers of racist attacks and the number of recruits to the fascist parties. A clear warning was served to the whole of the left and the labour movement in Bermondsey in August. The BNP's counter-demonstration against the Southwark Black People's Consortium march against racist attacks was a fascist victory. They were able to mobilise large numbers of local white residents to attack the anti-racist march. The anti-racists were outnumbered by the fascists.

The BNP are playing on the fears of the poor-white whites, turning their anger at bad housing, declining services and rising unemployment not against their rightful enemies—the bosses—

but against their fellow victims in the black community, against Jews, against lesbians and gays, and against socialists and the labour movement. They do not restrict their activity to whipping up hate with speeches and poisonous leaflets, but like their neo-Nazi allies in Germany, they put their policies into practice in the form of vicious physical attacks.

Anti-Fascist Action (AFA) is dedicated to crushing the fascist menace. It is a non-sectarian, anti-racist and anti-fascist organisation which recognises that fascism directs its violence against the most oppressed sections of our society and against the organised working class movement itself. AFA aims to organise and mobilise a mass working class response to the fascists, challenging them politically and physically.

AFA has recently made the headlines in mobilising anti-fascists to picket the BNP's paper sale in Brick Lane. We organised a well attended day-school and rally in East London on the lessons of past anti-fascist struggles. Over the last three years AFA has been tireless in confronting the fascists, not only through direct physical challenges but also by taking patient arguments against fascism to the very estates that the BNP have been targetting for their race-hate propaganda. In every by-election the BNP have contested AFA has mobilised to disrupt their meetings, challenge their marches and counter their lies.

A measure of our success in campaigning

against fascism was the 8 September Unity Carnival. Organised by AFA, the carnival brought 10,000 people to Hackney Downs in a show of opposition to the fascists.

But although AFA is widely recognised as leading the fight against fascism, on our own we have limited resources. If the fascists are going to be stopped now, before they have the chance to dig deeper roots and develop a broader national profile, we need to build a mass working class united front to mobilise the largest possible numbers against the BNP and other fascist outfits.

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) claims 6,000 members. *Socialist Worker* carries a weekly column called "Where We Stand", committing the party to fighting racism and supporting black self-defence. For too long the SWP have held back from actively organising their members to enforcing these principles. Now is the time for the SWP to throw its efforts and resources into common action with AFA to crush the BNP and destroy the fascists' base.

Further delay will only result in more racial attacks, more fascists able to campaign openly in elections, more death threats to left wing councillors,

more attacks on left wing meetings and paper sales. It will mean that there is more chance of fascism winning mass support in the future.

The SWP should commit its thousands of activists to building AFA: it should affiliate on a national and local level and should join efforts to win support and delegates from the trade unions and labour movement to the campaign. It should support the position of AFA that the fascists should be allowed no platform, that they should be denied any opportunity to spread their poisonous message of racial division and hate.

AFA is organising a national demonstration against racist attacks on Sunday 10 November in East London. Support for this march is growing with unions, student organisations and anti-racist and anti-fascist campaigns around the country sponsoring it and sending coaches to it. AFA appeals to the SWP to respond positively to this initiative by mobilising all the forces at its disposal in the greatest possible show of strength against the BNP and against racist thugs and murderers wherever they might be.

Fascism has got a long way to go to build a mass movement in Britain. Let's keep it that way.

Affiliate to Anti-Fascist Action!
Build a mass working class united front against the fascists!

Anti-Fascist Action is a democratic and non-sectarian organisation dedicated to fighting fascism. We welcome affiliations from labour movement organisations and individuals committed to taking part in that struggle. If you or your organisation would like to become a member or affiliate of Anti-Fascist Action, and be informed of future meetings and activities, please fill in the form below and return it to our box number.

Affiliation and membership fees:

Political organisations	£25.00 per year
Trade union branches	£20.00 per year
Waged individuals	£5.00 per year
Unwaged individuals	£1.00 per year

Organisation affiliation form

We would like to affiliate to Anti-Fascist Action

Name of organisation
 Address

 Affiliation fee

Individual affiliation form

I would like to affiliate to Anti-Fascist Action

Name
 Address

 Trade union
 Affiliation fee