

Anti Nazi League

Appeal to trade unionists—wake up call from Burnley

WE NEED UNITY IN ACTION TO DEFEAT THE NAZIS

THE NAZIS have conned their way into winning three council seats in the local elections. Like Le Pen in France, the British Nazis preyed on disillusionment and apathy and posed as “respectable” politicians with an alternative to the existing system. Almost six million people voted for Le Pen in the presidential elections, while the 68 BNP candidates in the local elections got just over 30,000 votes.

Our task, like in 1993 on the Isle of Dogs, is to stop the Nazis pursuing their agenda of race-hatred. We are the majority, in Burnley and elsewhere.

Racist attacks, fear and intimidation follow the Nazis, wherever they organise. They may even sound like socialists, like Hitler in the 1930s, but their aim is an all white Britain with repatriation. The result? A massive increase in racist attacks. Stephen Lawrence was murdered near the BNP HQ, where racist attacks soared by 210 percent. In east London they rocketed by 300 percent after the election of a Nazi councillor.

We face an urgent task—to stop the Nazis before they get bigger and more ‘respectable’. Across Europe the Nazis have

been ‘normalised’ and have entered mainstream political society. It is even claimed that we must accept this, because it is “democracy”! Yet the Nazis are exploiting democracy in order to smash it!

Hitler made May Day a national holiday in 1933. The next day he abolished the trade unions, his SS troops stormed offices and trade unionists were thrown into concentration camps. He lied—and the BNP is lying today.

Turning point

The BNP use the media to con people. That’s why we believe it is wrong to give them the “oxygen of publicity”. They should be denied a platform for their Nazi views.

The trade unions, and trade unionists have played a vital role in campaigning against the Nazis. The TUC-organised march in 1994 in east London was a turning point in the campaign to oust the Nazi councillor.

This is needed again. We could all see what was happening in the north west after the Nazis sparked race riots that divided Bradford, Burnley and Oldham. Speeches

were made at union conferences and meetings were organised. It needed to be backed up with action on the ground and a strategy for tackling racism in the workplace.

Last summer the trade union movement should have been on the streets in north west towns. We needed a mass demonstration, to make people confident and collective and we needed a huge carnival to create a counter-culture to the racism that prevails in these towns.

This must happen this year. Two Nazi councillors are up for re-election in Burnley in a year’s time. The whole of the north east is up for re-election, with everyone having three votes—the BNP came second in one seat, with 28 percent. The BNP narrowly missed getting seats in Oldham, but in two years time the whole council is up for election—the Nazis came second in four seats.

We need a mass campaign against the Nazis. We did it in the 1970s and again in the early 1990s. We can do it again. It demands that the TUC be at the forefront, organising the protests and the carnivals.