

Unite against the BNP

THE BNP's success in elections to local councils and the London Assembly should sound alarm bells. This is a party which is led by a Holocaust-denier and which wants to see an all-white Britain.

Everywhere the BNP gain a presence racist violence follows. The BNP try to hide their Nazi roots and are cynically trying to build out of the despair created by the establishment parties abandoning working people in favour of big business.

Worse, every time mainstream politicians scapegoat migrants, echo Islamophobic attacks on Muslims or concede to racism, it legitimises the murderous bigotry of the BNP.

Respect refuses to give an inch to racism and bigotry. We support the widest possible movement to beat back the BNP.

Labour abandons heartlands

Respect MP George Galloway says, "The BNP can be beaten. Fifteen years ago, the fascists broke through in elections in Tower Hamlets, winning a council seat.

"They were driven back by united community campaigning and a national movement led by the Anti Nazi League and others. Now it is Respect, which is

proud of multicultural London and which stands up for minorities, which has broken through in the East End.

"That means we were able to push the BNP into fourth place in the East London constituency at the London elections in May, despite their dangerously high votes in outer East London.

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"No one can be complacent, though. The BNP did win a seat on the GLA.

"We in Respect are committed to fighting the BNP on two fronts. We want to unite irrespective of party to build a broad movement against the BNP and the racism they feed on. When it comes to opposing the BNP you will not put a cigarette paper between me and Jon Cruddas, the Labour MP for Dagenham, where the fascists hope to take further

ground. We do not have the luxury of petty divisions.

"We in Respect also believe that unless we tackle the crisis over housing, the spiralling food and fuel bills that are hitting millions of people, the hopelessness in so many areas of the country and the sheer lack of representation for working people, then the BNP are always going to find people they can con into supporting them.

"This Labour government is failing across the board. The Tories and, far worse, the BNP hope to build out of people's despair.

"Respect seeks to offer hope – at the ballot box and alongside all those struggling for a decent society.

"Where Respect is strongest – in south Birmingham, Tower Hamlets and Newham where we have councillors – the BNP are pushed to the margins.

"So as well as a broad movement against the BNP, Respect is trying to expand and wants to work with other progressive people to provide a credible political alternative anchored, as Labour at its best once was, in local working class communities, black, Asian & white."

COLOGNE: MOBILISE TO STOP THIS HATE-FEST

Thanks to George Bush's war on terror, Islamophobia is the acceptable face of racism. The fascists and far right across Europe have put attacks on Muslims at the centre of their propaganda.

This September the European far right is set to gather in the German city of Cologne for an anti-Muslim hate-fest. Anti-racists, trade unions, survivors of the Holocaust, Muslim groups and others across Germany are calling on people to come to the city in protest.

Respect is organising a large delegation to join this major protest, blockade and counter-conference over the weekend of 20 and 21 September.

Nadir Ahmed, one of the organisers of the delegation,

says, "The BNP's Richard Barnbrook is due to be in Cologne alongside veteran fascists like Jean Marie Le Pen.

"Every far right party wants to get a boost from it. A huge counter protest, on the other hand, will lift Muslims and anti-racists across the continent. The fascists appear to have chosen this date because it is right in the middle of Ramadan, when Muslims are fasting, tend not to travel far, and spend a lot of time with friends and family.

"Well, for me and many Muslims going to Cologne to stop this Nuremberg rally for Islamophobia definitely comes under the category of essential travel and an obligation to act justly. I hope many brothers and sisters, Muslim and non-Muslim, join us."

For Cologne details phone Nadir on 07951 058 864