

Rally against the BNP



in Barking & Dagenham

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER

1pm, Central Park, Dagenham

Supported by:



Unite Against Fascism (UAF) is calling a counter rally and protest against the fascist British National Party's (BNP) rally in Central Park on Saturday 9 December. We need as many anti-fascists as possible to show opposition to the BNP. The BNP will be hoping that the acquittal of Nick Griffin and Mark Collett earlier in November will galvanise their activists. The BNP has 12 councillors in Barking and Dagenham.

The BNP's racist literature publicising their rally is claiming that immigrants receive priority for council housing and that violent crime has gone up in the area because of an increase in the immigrant population.

The reality is that immigrants DO NOT receive priority for council housing. The BNP's racist so-called "Africans for Essex" scheme is a total lie. There is no such scheme that specifically gives grants to Africans. The majority of Africans and other BME communities live in private accommodation paid for by themselves. Minority communities cannot be blamed for shortages in housing and other public services that are the result of public policy adopted in the last twenty years that led to the shrinkage of social housing. The BNP is whipping up racism by making these claims.

Secondly the BNP claim that there has been an increase in violent crime, however there has been an increase in racist violence in the area. Figures from the Barking and Dagenham Race Equality Council show that, in the two years between 2004 and 2006, racist incidents have increased by 30%. This corresponds with increased BNP activity in the area. In June 2004 the BNP recorded by far their highest vote (averaging 20.5%) in the Barking and Dagenham borough in the London Assembly elections; in September 2004 the BNP gained a councillor in Goresbrook with over 50% of the vote; the BNP recorded 16.89% – the highest vote – in the Barking constituency in the general election 2005 (up from 6.4% in 2001, when Barking was one of the five constituencies where the BNP saved their deposit). By contrast, the same period saw a year on year fall in the number of racist attacks recorded by the Met Police across London.

Please join the rally and protest on Saturday 9 December. If you want your trade union or organisation to support this action please email unite@ucu.org.uk or tel 020 7833 4916.

UAF's national conference will take place on Saturday 17 February 2007, 10am, at the TUC Great Russell Street London. Last year's conference attracted around 600 people with several keynote speakers. We will email further details in due course. Please ensure you include this date in next year's diary.

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