

# HTUC

## Hackney Trades Union Council

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### **Stop the racist BNP**

We are writing to seek your help in a campaign to defeat the racist British National Party and their ambition to have an elected representative in the European Parliament.

On June 4 the European Elections will be held. London will be a single constituency electing nine members of the European Parliament on a proportional representation system.

A minority party needs just over 7% of the vote to win a seat and this year the racist BNP will hope to repeat their success in last year's Greater London Authority elections. With a predicted low turnout, the BNP could realistically achieve that breakthrough. Such a result would promote their racism, their anti-Semitism and their Islamophobia but would do nothing to address the real issues facing communities across the capital, and particularly here in Hackney.

### **No answers**

We need answers to economic recession, youth unemployment, spiralling debts, housing shortages, and a lack of training opportunities. We don't need a growing BNP influence with their divide and rule that is designed to keep us all down.

**To prevent them from winning a seat and 'representing' us in Europe, we need twelve anti-fascist votes to cancel every one they receive.**

Unfortunately, here in Hackney, the most anti-BNP borough in the whole of London, we are unconsciously making it easier for them to win. Hackney has low rates of voter registration and low rates of participation in elections.

**The logic is simple, the less people who vote in Hackney, the more likely we are to see the BNP win in the election.**

Hackney TUC, working alongside faith, tenants and community organisations, is determined to ensure that by 4 June, everyone in the borough is asked to register

to vote, and is encouraged to use that vote. We want the whole borough to be aware of the danger of not participating. We intend to build a community alliance which will deliver a massive anti-fascist vote here in Hackney.

While our primary focus will be to turn out a vote in the June election, by bringing people together we also hope to focus minds on what needs to be done to address the many underlying issues we the communities of Hackney face as the world economy sinks into recession.

### **Organising to win**

Hackney TUC have set ourselves some simple, basic tasks, which we hope you will help us achieve.

For each ward in the borough we want to make a list of community leaders and activists; whether they be trade unionists, tenants reps, community activists, faith leaders, or just individuals who are respected in the community. We then want to approach each and every one of them and ask for their support in this campaign. These people, we hope will then use their influence and their own networks to get the message out.

Secondly, we aim to drop leaflets through every door in Hackney in advance of the election, so that we get our message out directly.

### **Can you help out?**

We are not asking for a large commitment of time, just an hour or two, perhaps you already know some key figures locally, and would be prepared to approach them for us, or perhaps you will be prepared to drop leaflets through doors in your own street?

If you are prepared to help, or have any suggestions as to how to take this message into our communities, then please email [john.page45@btinternet.com](mailto:john.page45@btinternet.com), with your phone number and address. We will then arrange for someone to speak to you to discuss how you can help.