

Contents

1. Statement in the aftermath of Woolwich
2. UCU wins award for Holocaust film
3. Sending out the right message?
4. News round-up

1. UCU statement in the aftermath of the murder of Drummer Lee Rigby

In response to the emergency motion passed at our Annual Congress 'Don't let the racists divide us' UCU has issued the following statement:

They will not divide us

UCU sends its sincere heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of murdered soldier, Drummer Lee Rigby who was viciously and brutally attacked in Woolwich, South East London on Wednesday 22 May 2013.

UCU welcomed and agrees with the statement issued by Drummer Rigby's family urging for calm and to "appeal for everyone to show their respect in a peaceful manner" in the aftermath of his death and not to use his memory for personal or political gain.

UCU stands opposed to all extremist groups wishing to use this harrowing event to further peddle their hate through fear and violence as seen by the EDL, who on the night of the murder, descended to Woolwich by chanting '*whose streets, our streets*' culminating in a running battle with the Police. The BNP organised further protests around the country and in central London, which have received strong opposition from community groups and trade unions.

UCU condemn the continued demonisation of Muslims through irresponsible reporting in the media by blaming all Muslims for the heinous act committed by two individuals whose actions are not representative of what it means to be a Muslim or a follower of the religion Islam. Also, the shocking increases in Islamophobic incidents of which 200 were reported including 10 attacks on mosques within a week following the murder.

UCU is proud to support activities organised by affiliates Unite against Fascism who organised the "*Unity in the Community*" event to demonstrate that the incident in Woolwich will not divide us and Hope not Hate who organised an on-line letter sending out a clear message to all extremist group that their rhetoric is not wanted nor is it welcomed.

UCU will work with other trade unions, Unite against Fascism, Hope not Hate and community groups to continue to challenge racism, fascism and Islamophobia within our colleges, universities and communities.

UCU is committed to campaigning against xenophobia, racism, Anti-Semitism, homophobia and Islamophobia.

2. UCU wins award for Holocaust film

UCU was awarded a TUC Communication Award. The union submitted a film made by Paul Rey-Burns for the union to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, which won the award for the best use of e-communications.

The judges said the film contained 'moving and powerful testimonies from UCU members about how the Holocaust continues to affect lives today.' They added that the film 'eloquently makes the case for education unions having a special role in ensuring that current generations understand the Holocaust.'



UCU head of equality Helen Carr receives the TUC award for best e-communications for the Holocaust Memorial Day film.

You can view the film here
<http://www.ucu.org.uk/6442>

UCU head of equality, Helen Carr, who collected the award at last night's ceremony, said:

'I am hugely pleased to receive this award on behalf of UCU but in particular for the five Jewish members of UCU who participated in the film. They are: Anita Peleg, Michael Picardie, Gail Reed, Elliot Schatzberger and Rebecca Steinfeld.'

'UCU has commemorated HMD for the previous 3 years through a national seminar on the day. This year we decided that to reach and involve more members to make this film. Including the personal family testimonies would enable our commitment to HMD to have a deeper impact.'

'The sharing of personal histories has conveyed not only the painful loss to each family but the magnitude of the Holocaust.'

'The testimonies take us to Germany, Austria, Poland, France, Lithuania and Hungary and later to England. Anita's direct family before the Holocaust was 26 members – two grandparents, 8 siblings and 6 spouses and 9 grandchildren – only 8 survived. And Michael stated that between July 1941 and December 1941 – 92% of nearly 300,000 Jews of Lithuania were murdered.'

'UCU as a teaching union has produced an important education resource to remind us why we must always be vigilant and continue to campaign against far right movements such as the BNP and the EDL. There have been further genocides and the film commemorates those murdered in Rwanda, Cambodia, Darfur and Bosnia.'

'Finally I would like to thank Paul Rey Burns who was commissioned to make this film. His commitment, sensitivity and creativity was invaluable. And finally I would like to thank Sharon Russell a member of the equality team at UCU who project managed the film and provided immense support to those involved.'

'As the judges mentioned, educators have a vital and unique role to play in ensuring the lessons of the Holocaust continue to be learned. This award is timely reminder that we must use education to combat ignorance and fear so neither can be exploited to whip up hatred against people in our communities.'

'The film is part of our growing education resources on anti-Semitism and we hope that by winning this award it will now reach even more people.'

3. Sending out the right message?

The Government's recent campaign warning migrants to "go home or face arrest" is nothing but out and out racism.



The vans employed by the Home Office, will be driven around the London boroughs of Ealing, Barnet, Hounslow, Brent, Redbridge and Barking and Dagenham (as a trial, and if successful will be rolled out throughout the country), were chosen because these boroughs 'currently have either high or low numbers of voluntary returns'.

The Government will argue that it is their attempt to tackle the issue of immigration in the UK and to counter the claims being made by UKIP, who, ironically, have attacked the Government on this campaign. A Liberal Democrat spokesperson said "*These poster vans were not cleared or agreed by Liberal Democrats in government. We are totally committed to tackling illegal immigration but this is a disproportionate, distasteful and ineffective way to do it.*" but the Labour Party are yet to respond.

To run a campaign such as this and especially in Barking and Dagenham, a borough that has fought against division and intimidation caused by the BNP, will only serve to create hostility amongst migrants regardless of their residency status.

During the 2012 Olympics, the UK was showcased to the world by PM David Cameron, who said "*there is no more diverse, more open, more tolerant city in the world than this one.*" A year later, the Government have muted plans to:

- Compel landlords to check prospective tenant's immigration status
- Propose similar proposals for checks on migrant school children
- Plans to charge 'new migrants' an upfront levy of at £1,000 to cover the cost of healthcare in their first five years in the UK
- "bonds" for visitors from India, Pakistan and Nigeria

At a time where communities are working together in unity, to oppose extreme groups from peddling their message of hate and division following the horrific murder of soldier Lee Rigby in Woolwich, shows that the Government is adding to the rising xenophobia instead of trying to quell it, we ask, is this really the right way to go?

HOPE not hate campaign: A taste of things to come?

In the immediate aftermath of Woolwich we applauded the resilience of British people for refusing to allow extremists to win. But now our unity is being tested and it is time for us to take a stand.

Today (29 July 2013) **HOPE no hate** are launching an appeal for £5,000 to ensure a voice of **HOPE** is heard.

The £5,000 will pay for:

A national *We Are The Many* leaflet

15 local leaflets for our key target areas

A social media campaign to bring together Muslims and non-Muslims

Can you chip in a few quid to help us?

<https://donate.hopenohate.org.uk/a-taste-of-things-to-come>

The inexcusable killing of Lee Rigby has been followed by a wave of attacks on Britain's Muslim communities. Only last week a man was charged with murdering an elderly Muslim man in Birmingham and planting three bombs outside mosques. Virtually every day we have scaremongering anti-immigration headlines in the national newspapers. And now we have the advance gimmick.

Help us spread the *We Are The Many* message

<https://donate.hopenohate.org.uk/a-taste-of-things-to-come>

A few weeks ago we stood together and said *We Are The Many*. Now we need to get that message out into local communities and ensure we continue to stand united against extremism, hatred and racism. And by doing this loudly and confidently we can tell our politicians – of all parties – that there will be consequences if they play fast and loose over race and immigration.

Because if we don't then this ad campaign is a taste of things to come

4. News round-up

A UAF report: EDL not welcome in Tower Hamlets

The English Defence League (EDL) is once again threatening to march in East London. This follows their numerous failed attempts in the past. They plan to march on Saturday, 7 September, in Tower Hamlets to march to the East London Mosque, intimidate and harass local people.

They have attempted to march in Tower Hamlets three times before. On each occasion trade unions, Muslim, Christian, Jewish, other faith, LGBT communities, local elected politicians and many more, stood together and prevented them from entering the borough. Now, more than ever, it is crucial we stand together again. The EDL is trying to ferment Islamophobia following the murder of soldier Lee Rigby in May, we must not let them.

Wherever the EDL go attacks on Muslims and other communities occur. In June, a Muswell Hill mosque and community centre was burnt to the ground and 'EDL' was found painted on the walls. In July, 3 mosques in the West Midlands were subjected to bomb attacks shortly before the fascists mobilised several hundred in Birmingham.

We want to show that the EDL and their fascist ideas are not welcome in Tower Hamlets or anywhere in London. We need a vibrant demonstration of multi-cultural East London.

Unite Against Fascism is urging all antiracists and antifascists to join a demonstration opposing the EDL on Saturday 7 September. We must stop these racist street thugs from dividing our communities.

Date: Saturday 7 September 2013 ▪ Assemble 11am
Location: Altab Ali Park, Whitechapel High Street, London E1

Manics consider legal action against EDL

The Welsh rock band Manic Street Preachers is considering legal action against the EDL for using the song *"If You Tolerate This Your Children Will Be Next"* to promote its Birmingham demo.

The EDL is now the subject of ridicule, after it appeared to be oblivious to the fact that the song is a fiercely anti-fascist homage to the International Brigades of Spanish Civil War. The song even features an anti-fascist slogan used in the conflict, including the line: *"So if I can shoot rabbits/Then I can shoot Fascists,"* thought to derive from a conversation between a Republican fighter and his brother.

Michael Wongsam, West Midlands Unite Against Fascism, said:

"We are appalled to discover that the racist and fascist English Defence League has used the anti-fascist song 'If You Tolerate This Your Children Will Be Next' by the band the Manic Street Preachers...This song takes its title from an anti-fascist slogan used during the Spanish Civil War where anti-racists and anti-fascists from all over Europe tried to stop Franco's fascists from taking over the country."

Weyman Bennett, joint National Secretary of Unite Against Fascism said:

"The Manic Street Preachers have been dedicated anti-fascists and anti-racists all their lives. It's ironic that the EDL are using an anti-fascist song to actually encourage fascism. It is slightly Orwellian; they are taking what is a struggle for equality and trying to turn it into something about division."

Krakow/Auschwitz Visit

Unite Against Fascism and Love Music Hate Racism are organising a visit to the Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp in Poland, based in the historic city of Krakow, and will take place from 4th-7th November 2013.

The purpose of the visit is to deeper understood the Holocaust and the Nazis and those attending will also be looking at the threat of fascism today.

The visit is open to all, and students, trade unionists and anti-racist activist in particular are encouraged to attend. The itinerary will include a guided tour of Jewish Quarter in Krakow (Kazimierz), a visit to the Old Synagogue, the Schindler factory and museum and the site of the Plaszow concentration camp, as well as the trip to the Auschwitz concentration camp and Birkenau death camp.

The visit will cost £260 and includes flights, a budget hotel, transfer to and from Krakow and the coach trip to Auschwitz. To secure your place, UAF will need a deposit of £100 (non refundable) by 5 September and the full amount by 4 October.

Please contact the UAF office (020 7801 2782) if you are interested in attending or can help sponsor the visit.

A HOPE not hate report: Sharing is caring

We are currently in the middle of Ramadan, a time for fasting, reflection and giving for all Muslims. HOPE not hate believes it should also be a time of coming together; a time to remember what we have in common.

Since the awful and inexcusable murder of Lee Rigby there has been an upsurge in anti-Muslim hatred. People have been threatened, mosques attacked and the level of online hatred is unprecedented. A man has just been charged with murdering an elderly Muslim man in Birmingham and setting off three bombs outside mosques in the Black Country.

An entire community is being blamed for the actions of two extremists and that is totally unacceptable.

Muslim organisations are coming together to host The Big Iftar - an initiative to open up mosques and other community buildings to non-Muslims and share a meal.

Find a Big Iftar near you <http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/big-iftar/>

In the immediate aftermath of Woolwich Muslim organisations moved quickly to denounce the murder of Lee Rigby and state clearly that the murderers did not act in their name. Now, with the Muslim communities feeling increasingly threatened, it is the time for non-Muslims to show their solidarity.

Attending a Big Iftar event - a meal to break the fast - is one way of doing that.



If you are unable to attend a Big Iftar event then perhaps you would prefer a more intimate interaction with a Muslim family. HOPE not hate is also promoting the Dine@Mine initiative where Muslim households host a meal for non-Muslims. You can sign up here:

<http://action.hopenothate.org.uk/page/s/dine-at-mine-2013>

Food is an excellent excuse to come together and it is also a great way to show our solidarity with others. At a time when extremists in all communities are seeking to divide us, let us come together and show We Are The Many.

Show Racism the Red Card

Writers Against Racism is a group of creative artists who publicly back the work of Show Racism the Red Card.

In a three part interview, Gary Younge discusses the perception of immigration in the UK and US, the 'rise' of UKIP and the EDL and ends with the far-right in America, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. You can read this fascinating three part interview here:

<http://www.srtrc.org/news/news-and-events?news=4504>

Gary Younge is an author, broadcaster and award-winning columnist for The Guardian, based in Chicago. He also writes a monthly column, Beneath the Radar, for the Nation magazine and is the Alfred Knobler Fellow for The Nation Institute. He has written three books, "Who Are We - And Should it Matter in the 21st Century?", "Stranger in a Strange Land: Travels in the Disunited States" and "No Place Like Home: A Black Briton's Journey Through the Deep South".

The next newsletter will be issued in September 2013. Visit the following for further updates on anti-fascist news: **Unite against fascism, www.uaf.org.uk ▪ HOPE not hate www.hopenothate.org**