

Model motion: Defend UAF secretary Weyman Bennett and those arrested at Bolton anti racist demonstration

This union branch committee/region/meeting notes:

1. The English Defence League (EDL) and its sister groups, the Scottish and Welsh Defence Leagues, are racist organisations. They also contain within their ranks large numbers of BNP members and other Nazi fringe groups.
2. The EDL has organised a number of demonstrations in cities across the country. Each one has resulted in racist attacks and violence, mainly directed against Muslims. So for example when the EDL marched in Luton in April 2009 and in Stoke in January 2010, hundreds of EDL thugs rampaged through Asian areas attacking innocent passersby and damaging a Mosque and shops. After the EDL Bolton protest on 20 March 2010, three EDL supporters stabbed a man in the shoulder with a "cut throat" blade when he asked the EDL supporters to leave a pub after they were behaving aggressively and abusing customers.
3. Unite Against Fascism is a broad based coalition of trade union, political parties, faith and community groups who are opposed to the rise of fascism.

This union branch committee/region/meeting further notes:

1. There is a long tradition in the Labour and trade union movement of opposing fascist and racist marches stretching back to the anti-British Union of Fascism protest at Cable Street, East London, in 1936 and the protests against the Nazi National Front in the 1970s.
2. That it was right for UAF to call a peaceful counter protest to defend Bolton's multi-racial and multi-cultural society on the day the EDL called a march against the town's Muslim community.
3. That police made every effort to facilitate the EDL demonstration whilst at the same time criminalised the anti-fascist protesters on the Bolton demonstration.
4. The police acted in a very heavy handed way attacking UAF protesters and arresting over 70 anti-racist protesters on the Bolton demonstration.
5. That the vast majority of UAF protesters arrested in Bolton were subsequently released without charge, or given an £80 fixed penalty charge.
6. Weyman Bennett has been an active campaigner for over 25 years in the anti-racist and anti-fascist movement and has never been convicted of any crime.

This union branch committee/region/meeting believes:

1. That the police's treatment of the UAF protesters was unacceptable and an investigation into the events that day needs to be set up by the labour and trade union movement.
2. The decision of the police to arrest Weyman Bennett for "conspiracy to incite violent disorder" is an attempt to criminalise the anti-fascist movement and scare people from attending anti-fascist protests.

This union branch committee/region/meeting resolves to:

1. Call on Greater Manchester Police to retract statements from senior police officers showering praise on the EDL while falsely accusing anti-racists in the UAF of "extreme violence".
2. Support the **justice4bolton** campaign.
3. Support the call for a public enquiry into the EDL demonstration and the police's conduct in Bolton on 20 March 2010.
4. Make a donation of to the campaign.
5. Support protests at any court appearance.
6. Forward this motion (or emergency motion) to our union conference.

Please make all cheques payable to **AFDC (Anti-Fascist Defence Campaign)**

Lloyds TSB Bank, Sort code: 30-94-74, Account number: 16666368

You can contact the campaign at: **AFDC, PO Box 56959, London N10 9AZ**

Website: **justice4bolton.org** Email: **info@justice4bolton.org**