

NO TO THE BNP REJECT RACISM

**FIGHT HOMOPHOBIA
UNITE FOR JOBS, EDUCATION, HOUSING
AND PUBLIC SERVICES**

The far-right, racist and homophobic British National Party won two MEPs in the European parliament. That's a warning to all of us on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender scenes. The BNP wants to drive us underground. It wants to reintroduce Section 28 which stopped discussion of sexuality in schools.

The BNP thrives on fear. At a time of recession when we face cuts in pay, increased workload and the threat of unemployment, the BNP seeks to divide working-class people by scapegoating black and Asians, and LGBT people. Ten years ago, former BNP member, David Copeland, killed when he bombed the Admiral Duncan pub in Soho. He also targeted black and Asian communities in Brixton and the East End. At the time, we all sent out the message:

Never again!

We need effective campaigns to defend our rights and cut across the growth of the far-right. There is no point looking to the mainstream parties. New Labour policies and the MPs expenses scandal have repelled most people. Privatisation, attacks on public-sector pay and harsh anti-union laws show that New Labour is a big-business party like the others.

Tory leader, David Cameron, voted to restrict access to IVF treatment for lesbian couples. And nearly every Tory MP voted to

weaken protection against incitement to hatred on the grounds of sexuality. In the European parliament, the Tories are in a right-wing coalition with the openly homophobic Polish Law and Justice Party which has banned pride marches.

WE NEED an alternative. The Socialist Party backs the Campaign for a New Workers' Party, and participated with the RMT union in No2EU-Yes to Democracy in the euro elections. Such a coalition in the next general election would provide a positive alternative to the mainstream parties, and help cut the ground from far-right groups like the BNP.

28 June was the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York, where LGBT people fought running battles with police. In this act of defiance, the rioters – working-class LGBT people – broke the monopoly of self-ap-

pointed, 'respectable' gay rights lobbyists. Gay Liberation Fronts sprang up around the world. The original pride marches celebrated the Stonewall riots.

What do we get today from self-appointed lobbyists? Despite its name, Stonewall is part of the political establishment, not part of the protest. Its top officers wine and dine ministers and big business 'on our behalf'. It is top-down, undemocratic, safe and contained. It's useless.

We need to rebuild democratic grassroots campaigns. The message of Stonewall, London Pride, etc, is that there is no need for active campaigning. They bought into the pink pound con. They sold out pride to the corporations. They turned their backs on those who need an active, political LGBT scene more than anyone else – because you can't buy your way out of a low-paid job, and you can't move from a run-down estate to a gay condo (unless you're loaded, of course).

Because of the recession, we are facing big

cuts in government spending. The first services to be axed will be those considered marginal, with LGBT services high on the list. United campaigns of service users, trade unionists and others are essential.

Unlike the Stonewall lobby, we are not content with the way things are. We need to reclaim our history. Forty years ago, the Gay Liberation Front and others did not only fight for legal, formal equality. They wanted to change society to bring about LGBT liberation.

We are LGBT against capitalism. We cannot be liberated under a system which is based on profit, inequality and exploitation. The rich and powerful dominate, the vast majority work to get by, while billions of people around the world live in abject poverty. By ploughing wealth back into society, a democratic socialist system could free human beings from that inequality, exploitation and division.

Join us!



www.socialistparty.org.uk

Return to: Socialist Party, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD • www.socialistparty.org.uk

I would like to join the Socialist Party I would like to find out more

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel no

Email