

FIGHTING TALK

Anti Fascist Action

UPDATE: Summer 1998

Another Year, Another Carnival...

If anti-racists want to combat the rise of racism in this country we must start by being honest.

Racism has been allowed to fester in certain areas and it is getting worse, not better. We should not fool ourselves that racism is the preserve of 'tiny minorities' or a 'handful of right wing politicians' or that 'the media' is solely responsible for it.

Where it matters - in working class communities throughout Dublin - the anti-immigrant argument has become accepted. At present Ireland, especially the urban areas, is fertile ground for a racist populist group or individual. In the last General Election two candidates ran on an anti immigration ticket. With the local elections due next year it could provide the racists with a platform. Anti racists must be prepared to deal directly with such developments.

No amount of petition signatures or placard waving will 'turn the tide'. Protests against racism addressed to anti-racists are a sterile strategy. The battle must be fought and won at local level. This means slow, patient work to dispel the racist lies about refugees and, crucially, the building of links between both the refugees and the local communities. It also means presenting a physical response to those engaging in racist attacks or distributing racist literature.

In Europe the fascist right has entered the political mainstream by using propaganda about race and immigration. But they have also benefited from the contempt of most ordinary working class people for the sell outs and corruption of the traditional 'left'. There have been many large demonstrations in Europe against the rise of the right - but they have not prevented it. We do not face that situation here, yet. But it is as well to remember that tactics which have failed in Europe will also fail here. The battle begins and ends in working class communities, not in Temple Bar.



AFA stops the ICP 'National Launch' in Ennis

AFA successfully disrupted the launch of the Immigration Control Platform in Ennis last January. We - alone among the anti-racist organisations, it seems - are determined not to allow a platform for racists and fascists in Ireland. AFA activists are working against racism at community level in several areas of Dublin and are involved with the African Refugee Network in this vital work.

This is a crucial period for anti-racists. The racists are becoming more vocal and better organised. Race attacks are increasing. AFA were joint organisers of an anti-racism demonstration last April, which brought over 1,000 people onto the streets of Dublin. The race attacks have continued to rise. One-off marches/carnivals and 'well intentioned' liberalism are not enough. This is a battle we cannot afford to lose. Genuine anti-racists must get actively involved, before its too late.

If you agree with AFA's work and aims please get involved. Everyone has a part to play, new people and ideas are always welcome.

AFA's Campaign

Anti Fascist Action has been actively involved in organising against racism and fascism since our foundation in 1991. At present our activity is aimed at dispelling the widespread lies and stereotypes about refugees and combatting the racism prevalent in many working class areas. Last January we physically prevented the national launch of the racist Immigration Control Platform in Ennis and stopped plans by the ICP to hold a public meeting in Dublin. We have made many contacts with anti-fascists from all parts of Ireland and a strong AFA network exists throughout the country.

AFA believes that liberal anti-racist rhetoric will have no impact in the fight to defeat racism. In the past year the reaction of politicians, the media and the general public to the increase in the number of people of different races and cultures has found expression in open racism, verbal and physical attacks and widespread discrimination. Refugees are being blamed for causing poverty and crime and are being called 'scroungers'. Throughout Europe racists and fascists have used these issues to attack immigrants and foster racism in working class areas. In reality Fascism is an attack on the whole working class. AFA is making it clear that the blame for poverty, lack of housing, low pay, etc. lies with the government, not with refugees.

Appeal for Information

AFA is the only organisation in Ireland monitoring the activity of racists and fascists. We are working to ensure that no organised fascist group develops here.

If you know of any racist or fascist activity please pass on the information to AFA.

Fascism must be nipped in the bud before it has the chance to grow.

All information will be treated in confidence.

Since the 1930s Ireland has not had an organised fascist group. As Ireland becomes increasingly multi cultural all anti fascists must be vigilant and prepared to respond - ideologically and physically - to any attempt by racists and fascists to organise in Ireland. AFA recognises that this work will be long term and demands hard work in local communities. We are not in the business of publicity stunts or one week campaigns.

AFA needs your help to keep Ireland Fascist Free.

About AFA

AFA in Ireland is part of the wider Anti Fascist Action network with branches throughout England, Scotland and Wales and has international contacts with similar groups in Europe and America. We also organise among football fans in Britain to counter fascist recruitment at football.

AFA has been the only organisation to effectively challenge and prevent the growth of fascist groups such as BNP, the National Front, C18 and Nazi 'Blood & Honour' gigs.

AFA publishes the quarterly magazine Fighting Talk and a wide range of anti fascist merchandise and stickers are available.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

We need your support - AFA has produced thousands of leaflets explaining the reality of the refugee situation in Ireland. To keep up this essential work we need financial support. In the coming months we are planning fund raising gigs and socials, all are welcome to attend.

Any contributions towards our work are very welcome and much appreciated. Please send cheques or postal orders to AFA, PO Box 3355, Dublin 7.

Website: <http://www.geocities.com/Capitol Hill/Lobby/8947>

JOIN ANTI FASCIST ACTION

I would like to become a member of AFA

I would like to become a supporter of AFA

I enclose a donation of £ cheque/PO

(Donation Optional)

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Return To:

ANTI FASCIST ACTION, PO Box 3355, DUBLIN 7

AFA can also be contacted at 088 2523333

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