

**T**he second NUS Black Students' Campaign handbook is dedicated to the memories of all young Black people who have died in tragic circumstances fuelled by racism. Here, we reflect on the consequences of a few of these untimely deaths and the struggles of their families and friends for justice, in the face of enormous institutional barriers within the educational and judicial systems.

**Stephen Lawrence**, an 18-year-old college student tragically murdered in a racially motivated attack for which no-one has ever been prosecuted, and his parents who have fought with incredible strength and dignity against the evils of racism in our society. Through the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust his memory acts to inspire and promote talented young architects – the career Stephen had in mind – with bursary initiatives. The Trust is also fundraising for the Stephen Lawrence Technocentre to serve as a permanent tribute to Stephen. For more information email: [information@stephenlawrence.org.uk](mailto:information@stephenlawrence.org.uk) or visit: [www.stephenlawrence.org.uk](http://www.stephenlawrence.org.uk)

**Ricky Reel**, a university student, whose death after a racist attack remains unsolved. A week of police inaction elapsed before Ricky's body was pulled from the River Thames. The senior investigator's opinion – before any inquiry had taken place – was that Ricky had fallen in and

died instantly. The case was closed. Police ineptitude resulted in protest to the Police Complaints Authority who accepted the investigation was flawed and weak. Three officers were found guilty of neglect of duty. Throughout the inquest police campaigned for a verdict of accidental death. The jury rejected this conclusion, vindicating Ricky's family's belief that his death was not an accident. Despite promises of swift action Ricky's family received limited support and continue to seek a review of the investigation and public inquiry.

**Jevan Richardson**, a 10-year-old, committed suicide after harassment and abuse at his school. Jevan was bullied by his teacher and the school's head, and witnessed the violent arrest and ill-treatment of his mother by the school, its governors and the police as she spoke up about his abuse. He also saw his mother's plea for help from the education authority fall on deaf ears, despite her discovery of a suicide letter Jevan had written, before his eventual, untimely death after he was excluded from school. A subsequent inquiry and Judicial Review saw Jevan's school accept it was wrong to exclude him. The High Court gave his family the right to pursue cases of race discrimination, negligence and failure in duty of care against the school. For information email the Justice for Jevan campaign: [jfj\\_campaign@yahoo.com](mailto:jfj_campaign@yahoo.com)

# acknowledgements

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Congratulations for realising that you are in control of your destiny and that the future belongs to all those who dare to claim it.

Visualise where you want to be and then take the steps to get you there.

As we move through life some things change and some fundamental things stays the same. For example, you will always have to work twice as hard and be twice as good just to keep up pace. So get used to it. You will always have to justify what you have done and why you have done it. So get used to it. And while you may sometimes be stronger, smarter and better than other people you meet, there will always be something else to learn. So get used to it.

I am a product of a Black self-organised structure and I am proud of that. In an environment where my experience was the norm, I found opportunities that allowed me to excel.

Never forget the advice that you are given and friends that you make at this time in your life. These are invaluable. As we progress through life, I truly believe that the day will come when we will all be judged on our merits. Until then, keep up the good fight. And stand up for what you believe in – even if you stand alone – but pick your battles carefully. Allow what we have in common to bind us because united we are stronger.

I wish you the very best with your studies, and I am so very proud of you all. Whatever you do, do it to the best of your abilities and with pride. Let every obstacle in your life be your next stepping stone to where you want be.

Nuff respect,

Dawn Butler MP

The NUS Black Students' Campaign uses the term 'Black' in its political sense. Whilst acknowledging the immense diversity in and between the African, Asian, Caribbean and Arab communities, it is also recognised that the commonalities and basis of our experiences are also marked by racism and the under-representation of our communities in all institutional structures.



black students

Welcome to the second national diversity handbook from the NUS Black Students' Campaign.

The handbook is designed to work on three levels, firstly, to support members of our Campaign – students of African, Asian, Caribbean and Arab heritage; secondly, to inspire and encourage the many talented young Black students considering further and higher education, and thirdly, to give the wider student community a better insight and understanding of Black students in our institutions.

If the experience of Black students was more equitable and the wider community understood the reasons for this, perhaps then the reality for Black students could be different. Empathy is critical to giving Black students confidence to begin to interact with the systems that have isolated and excluded their perspective over time.

The time to implement change is now and the place to take up the challenge for equality is in our unions. We all share a duty to ensure that no one suffers from racism and that our college and university environments are supportive of students from all backgrounds and cultures.


The NUS Black Students' Campaign hopes you will use this handbook to deal with different aspects of the same ideal: that all students should be able to thrive, no matter what their race, culture or background. An attack on this ideal, whether through overt racism or a lack of awareness, is an attack on us all. We should all be prepared to stand up and defend the dignity, welfare and freedom of each other because racism has no place in our society.

The multicultural diversity of the student population is a great strength that should be celebrated. We hope this guide will encourage you to celebrate this social and cultural richness and inspire you to act and develop ideas for engaging the full spectrum of students.

We also hope our handbook, and the information it provides, inspires you to act and develop ideas for engaging the full spectrum of your students.

Please get in touch with any feedback or to ask for support to implement strategies that will empower your students.

In unity,



Pav Akhtar  
Co-Editor  
NUS Black Students' Officer



Aliyyah Balson  
Co-Editor  
NUS Black Students' Committee



# Because...

**B**ecause all Black people are niggers and if we're not we're pakis and if we're not we're half-castes or mongrels who can't get a job because if we have a job we're taking white people's work and if we don't we're state scroungers and we're the last to be employed and when we are it's to fill quotas and because we're the first to be sacked and if we complain we're militants or playing the race card and if we don't it's our slave mentality and because no-one is listening anyway and because if we wear traditional clothes we're backward and if we don't we're trying to be white and if we grow our hair we're vagrants and if we don't we're intimidating and if we inter-racially marry we're muddying the genes and if we don't we're not integrating and if our friends are black we hate whites and if they're not we hate our own people and if we're housed near other minorities it's a ghetto or a little India and if we're not we're bringing down the neighbourhood and anyway we only get pregnant to get a house and if we're attacked it must be an ethnic problem and if we're not we're doing the attacking because we're overpoliced as citizens but underpoliced as victims and because we're all muggers or drug dealers or addicts anyway and because we should all go back to where we came from but leave our food and music and writing and... for lots and lots of other reasons we are part of the Black Students' movement.



## what is the nus black students' campaign?

**T**he NUS Black Students' Campaign is the largest organisation of Black students in Europe. We were set up to represent students of African, Asian, Caribbean and Arab descent, at a local and national level on all issues affecting Black students. Like the other NUS liberation groups, we are a self-organised and autonomous campaign. This means that Black students elect their own national officer and committee and pass policy at the summer conference. This policy shapes the Campaign's work to ensure the Black perspective is fully integrated into the fabric of all students' unions and society.

### the need for black representation

Despite Black students forming 20 per cent of the NUS' membership, we are among the least represented groups in it's democratic and social structures. Across the UK, less than four per cent of all elected officers and sabbaticals, and only three of NUS' 27 National Executive Committee members are Black.

However, the arguments for Black representation are not yet won, which is why the NUS Black Students' Campaign facilitates an increased engagement of Black students within their unions' structures. The reality is that unless students' unions redress the issue of under-representation, Black students will continue to miss out on academic and welfare support, remain on the fringe of union activities and fail to realise the full benefits of having a union that could support them.

### what we do for black students

The NUS Black Students' Campaign exists to meet the shared but diverse needs of all Black students. Active and accountable to Black students we have four core functions:

- We work with Black students and union officers to give support and resources e.g. develop Black clubs and societies and international groups, support anti-racism initiatives and run campaigns.
- We encourage widening of participation and educational opportunities for Black students in FE and HE.
- We build links between students and national campaigns e.g. the prayer room campaign, votes are power, anonymous marking, getting the Black experience into the curriculum and Kick Racism Out of Sport.
- We lobby to influence the political and educational bodies that set policies which impact on the Black community's experience: Mayor of London's Office, Department for Education, Commission for Racial Equality and trade unions.



### how we support and represent

The work for 2005-2006 is set out in a comprehensive Priority Campaigns document (available online). The four areas of work are: Black Representation, Rise Against Racism, Equality in Education and International Justice. These include:

# nus black students' campaign

## ● black representation

We want A Black Students' Officer in Every union and for 200 Black students to attend National Conference. Anecdotal evidence shows that where Black Officer posts have been created, there have been increases in the participation of Black students.

## ● rise against racism

We are building a strong anti-racist movement on campuses with Rise initiatives, while fighting the threat of the BNP who demonise Muslims and asylum seekers and call for an all-white Britain. The Campaign opposes bans on the hijab, turban and other religious symbols: a consequence of far-right politics in the mainstream agenda. We also lobby for implementation of the Race Relations Amendment Act and equality laws.

## ● equality in education

Black students face additional barriers in education: lower grades when anonymous marking is not in place, higher drop-out rates and more exclusions. As graduates we are three times less likely to find a job than white peers and then expect to earn nine per cent less. With the TUC we are fighting this inequality.

## ● internationalism

The need for an ethical and responsible world – free from wars and illegal occupations – is acutely understood by Black students. We support development charity ActionAid to tackle the HIV/AIDS pandemic; War on Want to campaign for fair trade rules; and Palestine Solidarity Campaign to defend the rights of all students to an education, and peace and justice in the Middle East based on international law. We also partner 1990 Trust to build solidarity with Black people across the world.

## how can you get involved?

Opportunities to get involved in the Campaign include the winter and summer conferences – to which each union can send one Black delegate for free. Here, you can network, get

campaign ideas, resources and advice to activate your students. We also run Clubs and Societies Training Days: Black Women's, Black LGBT and Black SWD days, and Black History Month activities during October. There is also Rise Against Racism week and Unite Against Fascism initiatives, or you can join our four priority campaigns. Individual Black students and all union officers can contact the Campaign for help to develop your Black groups and get diversity training and support, or campaign materials, advice and speakers.

## activities in your college

There are many ways of recognising and celebrating the contributions of the Black community. As a good starting point for engaging your Black students you could:

- Put on bhangra or hip-hop music/club nights.
- Campaign for a Black Students' Officer in your Union.
- Have a panel debate on issues like Stop and Search policing or Black people in media.
- Show Black films (a rich variety exists: Bollywood and African cinema or documentaries like *Injustice*).
- Have a freshers' stall with information on getting involved and who to approach for details.
- Run a Rise Against Racism week/event in your college.
- Organise events for Black History Month.

If you need more information or want to develop ideas on how to make a difference, or if you want to invite the NUS Black Students' Officer to support your club, society, or students' union, please contact us. Together we can build the unity that is our greatest strength. Good luck and keep in touch!

Pav Akhtar, NUS Black Students' Officer  
E: pav@nus.org.uk T: 0871 221 8221  
M: 07725 463 816 W: www.nusonline.co.uk/blackstudentscampaign

## NUS Black Students' Campaign winter conference

**date: 19-20 november, 2005**

**venue: at the wolverhampton  
britannia hotel**

- Are you an African, Asian, Caribbean or Arab student?
- Do you want to learn more about how your students' union works?
- Can you benefit from training on how to run successful clubs and societies?
- Would you like to meet other Black students and make lots of new contacts?
- Where can you hear key social and political leaders from the Black community?
- How can you campaign for better representation, anti-racism and equality in education in your institution?

**If you have answered 'yes' to these questions: come to this conference!**

**T**he NUS Black Students' winter conference is a free, two-day training event for all African, Asian, Caribbean and Arab students in colleges and universities across the UK.

The packed agenda includes workshops on organising successful clubs and societies, winning Black representation in your union, and running anti-racism events and other campaigns.

We also offer a wide range of speakers from the South African High Commission to Black MPs, from Black journalists to community leaders. All are united in their commitment to supporting and encouraging Black students to be the best we can and to build

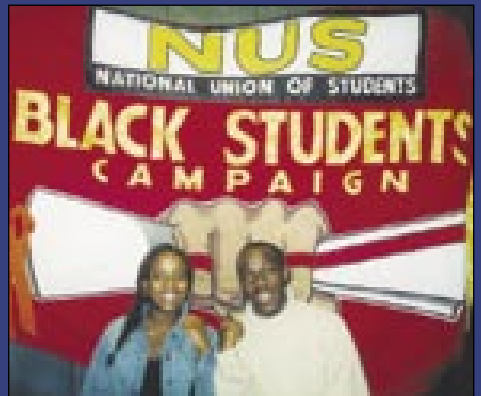
for a fairer and more equitable society.

The winter conference also provides the opportunity to meet other Black students from your local area, collect resources and materials for national campaigns, and build your confidence to take up leadership roles in your own institution.

### how to come along

- 1) Drop into your students' union and ask to go to the NUS Black Students' Conference. Each institution can send up to 4 people.
- 2) Call the NUS Events Office (0871 221 8221) if your union doesn't have details.
- 3) Ask the union to fill in the conference registration form with your details and send it back to NUS before the deadline of **November 12<sup>th</sup>**.
- 4) Get the union to sort out your travel to Wolverhampton. The union pays your train fares.\*
- 5) Come along to conference and participate in two days of active Black leadership.
- 6) If you have any problems please contact Pav Akhtar, NUS Black Students' Officer, e: pav@nus.org.uk m: 07725 463 816.

\*There are some discounts available for FE college students.



## campaign launched for a black students' officer in every union

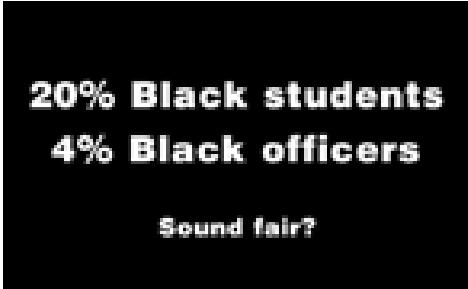
By Pav Akhtar

Student unions play an important part in giving a voice to their members' concerns. Yet for Black students the reality is that our views are often marginalised from the union's decision-making bodies. This has serious consequences. The link between under-representation and what Black students experience in education cannot be underestimated: we face lower marks when anonymous marking isn't in place, disproportionate mental health problems, higher drop-out rates; larger student debt, and the prospect of earning nine per cent less than white peers after graduation. Racism and inequality exacerbate these problems.

With proper Black representation the situation can begin to be effectively challenged. The NUS Black Students' Campaign has launched a Black Students' Officer in Every Union campaign to ensure that Black students have a voice in every institution.

Having Black representatives on union execs has already proven successful in increasing participation of Black students at some institutions, helping make Black students feel welcome in their union and to provide cultural support.

This initiative will ensure the benefit of a full-time national NUS Black Students' Officer is rolled out into colleges, so order a copy of the Black Students' Officer in Every Union briefing for your college. This includes a motion to pass at your union and campaigning tips for successful implementation. The campaign is augmented with posters and flyers, this Black students' handbook, a list of inspiring quotes and contacts for speakers and local supporters.



**20% Black students**  
**4% Black officers**  
**Sound fair?**

## campaigns for equality

Below are some other Black Students' Campaign initiatives. Information on challenging racism, opposing inequality in education, and for international justice can also be found in the handbook.

### **200 black delegates to nus conference (28–30 march, 2006)**

As well as campaigning for proper Black representation within unions, we are also leading a renewed campaign for 200 Black students to attend NUS National Conference in March. As students we face discrimination in many forms. Only by increasing our organised weight in NUS's policy-making bodies can we influence the agenda of the wider student movement and deliver for Black students.

### **clubs and societies**

Clubs and societies are where most Black students network and receive support. It is critical

that we develop these to run effectively and represent members fully with proper resources. Black clubs are often overlooked when unions distribute their funds. We have a briefing on running clubs and societies to involve Black students, and run free training events.

## graduate employment opportunities

The reality for many gifted, Black students is that despite achieving higher marks, statistically, we are three times more likely to be unemployed than white people within six months of graduation. To add to this inequality, inside five years of graduation Black students stand to earn up to nine per cent less than white peers for the same work. Our partnership with the TUC is challenging this.

## non-alcoholic spaces

If unions are to foster an open and inclusive culture to bring in their Black groups they must consider carefully where meetings and events are held. Some groups, e.g. Chinese and Muslim students will not congregate in alcoholic spaces. Alcohol is not central to having a meeting or a good turn-out – the issues are! We are encouraging students' unions to look at how they can change their cultures to promote Black involvement.

## nus black students' staff support

If NUS is to deliver for Black students then it must give proper resources. Presently, the Black Students' Officer works without NUS staff support to: research policy; write briefings; visit colleges; support Black students in discrimination cases; help union officers and run active campaigns and conferences. An over-stretched Officer cannot meet the full needs of Black students. This year the campaign has managed to fundraise enough

money for a part-time staff member, but NUS must fund this in the future.

## race hate crime reporting centres

There is no question that race hate crimes – offences motivated by hostility towards a racial group – are up and can cause long-term emotional and psychological scars. We all have a responsibility to ensure our campuses and communities are safe. Partnerships between institutions, community groups, the police and students' unions can ensure equality and freedom from racism. Use our briefing pack and training events.

## votes are power

The NUS Black Students' Campaign is running a 'Votes Are Power' campaign with Operation Black Vote and NUS to increase Black student participation in democratic elections, especially in the run up to the 2006 local elections. Do use our promotional materials.

## contact us

If you want to take up any of these initiatives in your union, or need support to engage Black students, email: [pav@nus.org.uk](mailto:pav@nus.org.uk)

**200** black students

**nus annual conference**  
28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> march, blackpool



## And he hasn't even had coffee.

Children have an energy that can be very infectious. The salary for teaching them is quite stimulating too: you start on at least £19K (Inner London – £23K), plus after one year there's a golden hello\* of up to £5K (taxable) in certain subjects such as science and maths.

[www.teach.gov.uk](http://www.teach.gov.uk) 0845 6000 991 Use your head. Teach.

\*Eligible postgraduates in England and Wales. Not available on GTP and RTP courses. Full details on request.

## the 1990 trust

**The 1990 Trust is a Black<sup>1</sup>-led human rights charity which believes the elimination of racism in all its forms is essential to achieving human rights. As an organisation the Trust emerged from the National Black Caucus, which was prominent in the 1980s.**

We run projects, produce research studies, and hold public consultations. As a 'think-tank' with a campaigning community edge, and extensive UK-wide grassroots network, the Trust is unique.

Founded in 1990, the Trust's aims were to ensure that Black communities were recognised, could enjoy their rights free from racism and were more fully engaged in social and political life in the UK.

We have been particularly concerned to challenge the often pessimistic and problematising view of Black communities and to focus attention on the systematic inequalities in employment, and public institutions like the criminal justice system, education and health.

Since the murder of Stephen Lawrence we have been committed to challenging institutional, collective and individual racism providing the analysis to influence public policy from a Black perspective and training for public servants, while empowering and enabling local communities in the process.

### Current and recent work includes:

- Research on the implementation of the Lawrence Inquiry's recommendations on stop and search – evaluating the success of a new pilot scheme to record and receipt all stops.
- Campaigning against the merger of the Commission for Racial Equality with six other equalities subjects into the Commission for

Human Rights and consulting on this with 400 Black organisations UK-wide.

- Seeking views on the Home Office plans for a UK-wide Race Equality Strategy.
- Campaigning against ID cards.
- The Trust's news website Blink ([www.blink.org.uk](http://www.blink.org.uk)) has grown three-fold. Blink is unique in running a mixture of campaigns backed by the Trust and stories published on basic journalistic principles of public interest.
- We also have a health-specific website Healthweb ([healthweb.blink.org.uk](http://healthweb.blink.org.uk)), and a quarterly publication called 'Black2Black'.
- Our youth work has resulted in two professional music CDs performed by at-risk young people in Lambeth, south London, and a range of mentoring activities. We recently completed a study of the Black voluntary sector and funding needs, and Black housing needs.
- We have played a leading role in opposing Section 55 of the Asylum Bill, which condemns thousands of asylum seekers to destitution if they claim 'in-country' rather than at 'port of entry.'

- Our human rights project is building a network of community organisations with the skills and knowledge to challenge racism as a violation of human rights; deliver an outreach education programme; develop a human rights consortium; and develop an online database of human rights laws.

**Email:** [blink1990@blink.org.uk](mailto:blink1990@blink.org.uk)  
**Tel:** 020 7582 1990



<sup>1</sup> 'Black' refers to the political term and includes members of the African, Asian and Caribbean community

# NUS voter registration drive

## N U S VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

**The next major opportunity for us to have a say in the electoral process will be in the local council elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006.**

These elections provides us, Black students and the wider student movement, with a unique opportunity to get our vision for students in post-16 education to the top of the political agenda, in order to ensure that local education authorities, political parties, MPs and the government respond to our calls for the needs of students, and to deliver on our priorities.

NUS knows that with 5.2 million student members, we have a powerful voting strength. Students represent a huge number of potential votes and in many councils seats across the country our vote can swing the outcome of elections.

But political parties and local education authorities will only take our campaign seriously if students are serious about voting. NUS aims to increase the student vote at the May 2006 local elections and equip students with the information they need to make an informed choice on the issues that will affect them.

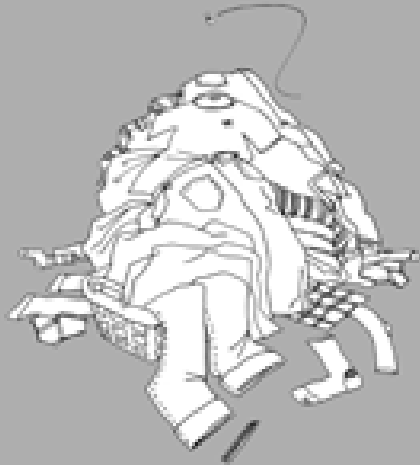
The first priority in our campaign is to encourage students to register to vote. The NUS Voter Registration Pack is designed to answer all your questions about the electoral registration process, and provide all the tools you need to run a voter registration drive for your students.

As representatives, you have a responsibility to get as many students involved as possible. Your role as student officers and students is to encourage

people to realise that their voices do count, to believe that things can change, and to promote the belief that taking part in the political process does work to make things better.

You can now also register to vote at university or college as well as at home, so go to: [aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://aboutmyvote.co.uk) and download a form to register to vote now!

Voter registration deadline is: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2006. Visit: [www.electoralcommission.gov.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.gov.uk) [www.hansardsociety.org.uk](http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk)



THERE ARE A MILLION REASONS TO GO HOME. VOTING ISN'T ONE OF THEM.

Now you can register to vote at uni or college as well as at home. Register at [aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://aboutmyvote.co.uk)

The Electoral Commission

## votes are power

**Operation Black Vote (OBV) is a campaign that aims to encourage and inspire Black people from the African, Asian and Caribbean communities to participate in the democratic and decision-making process.**

There is no better time than now for the political awakening of Black Britons. The aftermath of 9/11 and 7/7 has seen the rise in Islamophobia and attacks on many in the Black communities. We must stand up and play a full and positive role in determining the direction and quality of our lives. It is not apathy that denies us our rightful place at the decision-making table, but opportunity.

For two consecutive years OBV has proven this; we have seen our national MP Shadowing Scheme attract interest from more than 800 hopeful applicants. These young people have expressed their interest in political participation because of opportunities put

**Young people are interested in politics: in the politics of inclusion, not exclusion**

to them. And so our schemes have helped people from a wide range of communities to shadow MPs. It is critical we change the perception and reality of these places as white, male and middle-class institutions, which is enough to put most people off. If young people are engaged with on an equal level and in ways that resonate with them, they are full of ideas and opinions. What greater example of this than the fact that large delegations of the million-strong march against the Iraq war were of young people? It is abundantly clear that young people are interested in politics: in the politics of inclusion, not exclusion.

This is no different for those from Black communities.

The struggle for inclusion has been a long road walked by honorable and great leaders who have taught us a lot about self determination, Black self-organisation and Black-led leadership - Nelson Mandela, Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Rani (Queen of Jahnsi), Martin

**'First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win'**

Luther King, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Mahatma Gandhi. It is this self-organisation that commands respect and will sustain itself. It is self-organisation that will ensure that someone takes over the baton when the person in front falls; that will ensure we stand shoulder to shoulder when adversity confronts us, and will empower each person and the whole. Black History Month celebrates among many things this proud history of self organisation and the civil rights struggle across the globe. Remember, as you read this, the words of Mahatma Gandhi: 'First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.' We can win in our goal for a fair, just and inclusive democracy, one that allows our creativity, energy and talent to fulfill its potential and enhance British society.

Operation Black Vote has a host of materials and runs workshops in schools, colleges and universities. For further information and to become a supporter, please visit [www.obv.org.uk](http://www.obv.org.uk) or e-mail: [info@obv.org.uk](mailto:info@obv.org.uk)



## fighting racism and discrimination in an enlarged EU

by Claude Moraes MEP



**F**ollowing the European Parliament elections in June 2004, all newly-elected Black MEPs came together in a unique all-party European body, the European Parliament all-party group on Anti-Racism

**and Diversity.** Bringing vital anti-racism issues to the forefront of the European political agenda, the group aims to provide new political drive to the fight against racism and to maintain anti-racism as a priority on the EU's policy agenda in promoting equal treatment, respect for diversity and the positive integration of immigrants across the EU. Using a series of parliamentary hearings, the group has served as a platform for collaboration and debate between MEPs and NGOs on issues such as the situation of the Roma people, increasing anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and racial violence in Europe.

The group hopes to maintain the momentum set by the radical new approach taken to EU policy on anti-discrimination which saw the introduction of a package of new EU laws to outlaw discrimination on the basis of race, religion or belief, age, disability or sexual orientation. One element of the package was the Race Equality Directive – a groundbreaking law outlawing racism across the EU. The UK Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 is a product of the new EU Directive and incorporated a new statutory duty on all

public bodies to promote race equality and diversity. This includes organisations like the police, local councils, schools, hospitals, and universities and even student unions where university and college students can play an important role in ensuring their institutions take the regulations seriously.

### **Through political leadership – the anti-racist message has had an effect on the ground**

But legislation is only a first step in tackling a complex issue. Even in the few western European member states which have mature and comprehensive race and minority protection laws, it has only been through the 'multi-agency approach' (politicians, the media, law enforcement and education professions working together) – and through political leadership – that an anti-racist message has had an effect on the ground. While the implementation of these measures has not been perfect, the challenge in Europe now is to maintain the momentum of this period of change. EU leaders need to ensure the progress that has been made is followed-up and not overshadowed by the intolerant, racist and Islamophobic sentiments that inform some national debates on race, immigration and integration policy.

One of the biggest new challenges facing an enlarged EU lies in the way minorities in the new member states are treated and the institutional and often brutal racism they face in New Europe and in possible future members. The problem highlights widespread oppression and persecution of communities whose members are now EU citizens and entitled to enjoy protection from racism.

In spring 2005, I put a report before Parliament which sought to redefine what constitutes a "minority" in the new EU and to deepen the protection and equality of oppor-

tunity to key minority groups across the EU. The report is important because the enlarged EU brings forward a widening definition of the concept of minorities. At UN level, for example, there are definitions of what constitutes a minority for legal reasons, but this is not the case for the EU. My report talked about what we regarded as the key minority groups in the existing 15 member states – mainly ethnic and religious minorities and people who experience different treatment on the grounds of disability, age and sexual orientation. With enlargement there is now emphasis on this, but also an extension to the

**It is vitally important that traditional minorities, who do suffer discrimination, should be recognized**

discussion of traditional minorities and linguistic minorities.

Moreover, renewed emphasis on national minorities has come through the consideration of post-war history and the legacy of the Soviet Union. There are many minorities in the new Member States who have always remained where they are with shifting borders around them. It is vitally important that such traditional minorities, who do suffer discrimination, and options for full citizenship, should be recognised. Therefore, at the heart of my report was one of the first opportunities in the new Parliament to fully address discrimination against Roma, who are one of the biggest, ethnic minorities in the EU. If Member States do not want to act on the appalling discrimination suffered by many Roma communities, then they should understand that the EU as a whole will not stand by and allow discriminatory practices to continue without an EU-wide strategy to address the phenomenon. The report and recent resolution in the Parliament on the

Roma issue show that this is genuinely an all-party concern. The worst excesses of this particular situation can see Roma children segregated in schools, being sent to schools for those with mental disabilities, or families suffering from racial attacks.

Of course when discussing anti-racism it can sometimes seem that we have only negative problems to solve, yet the name of the Parliament's all-party group on the issue is Anti-Racism and Diversity. Anti-Racism is about what we are against, and respect for Diversity and a two-way process of integration is what we are for. Therefore, in the European Parliament I will also seek to highlight the positive impact that ethnic minority Europeans have made and continue to make across the European Union making it what it is today – a vibrant continent which will gain from respecting its minorities.



**N**AAR is a broad coalition of trade unions, MPs, Black and Jewish community organisations and students which exists to campaign against every manifestation of racism. We support victims of racism and racist violence, oppose the rise of the fascist BNP, defend asylum and immigration rights, oppose the rise in Islamophobia and campaign to end institutional racism.

## stopping the BNP

NAAR co-founded the Unite Against Fascism with the Anti-Nazi League and trade unions to address the electoral gains of the BNP. It is the only co-ordinated united opposition to a very real threat that can defeat the neo-Nazis. Students have played a key role in mobilising voters in areas that the BNP have stood.

## defending multiculturalism

The 7th July bombings devastated those directly affected, but were also an assault on the unity and diversity of London, the world in one city. In the wake of the bombings, proposals to clamp down on civil liberties are being planned. NAAR is campaigning to oppose these attacks and celebrate our unity in opposition to the rise of racism.

## defending asylum and immigration rights

Draconian laws curbing asylum rights are being proposed, following a decade of regressive immigration policy. On the contrary, 'tough' measures on asylum only serve to legitimise the extremist policies of the far right at the ballot box. We defend asylum rights and seek to redress the debate, celebrating the benefits of migration and making clear our duty to support asylum seekers. Download our myths and facts pack from the web site.

## opposing islamophobia

There has been a 600% increase racist attacks since the 7 July bombings. These included the murder of a Pakistani man in Nottingham, arson attacks on mosques and racist abuse against Muslims. NAAR continues to support initiatives to defend the right to choose to wear the hijab in schools which is being attacked across Europe.

## tackling institutional racism

The Lawrence report found institutional racism in the police yet many recommendations remain unimplemented. NAAR supports campaigns for the implementation of the Lawrence recommendations, which includes the diversification of the curriculum to reflect Black history, as a means of educating young people about the Black communities' contribution to society. NAAR also campaigns for increased black representation in public institutions.

## respect not racism

NAAR is a partner in the Mayor of London's Rise festival every July : the biggest free anti-racism festival in Europe. Around 100,000 people attend to celebrate diversity and say no to racism. This November the Student Riseweek will take the message of Rise into colleges around the country.

## students fighting racism

The Student Assembly Against Racism ensures that students are at the forefront of the campaign against racism, with activities in colleges around the country, SAAR provides support to those facing racism on campus and in the local community. For more information email: [contactsaar@hotmail.com](mailto:contactsaar@hotmail.com) c/o 28 Commercial St, London, E1 6LS  
Email: [info@naar.org.uk](mailto:info@naar.org.uk)  
Web site: [www.naar.org.uk](http://www.naar.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 7247 9907

**T**he most violent manifestations of racism occur in racist attacks – this must be challenged and the victims of racism must be supported. The number of racist attacks recorded by the police has increased from 20,058 in 2000-1 to 35,022 in 2003-4, the last available figures.

## the Sukula family must stay



When Daniel Sukula addressed the Black Students' Conference in May 2005, his entire family had just begun a campaign to stop their deportation to the Congo. Daniel

has 5 brothers and sisters, the youngest just 7-months-old. Aged 16, he has just passed 5 GCSEs, including an A in science and wants to be a plumber. His sister Flores wants to be a midwife.

Having had their application for asylum refused, the family was one of the first in the country to face the ending of state support under the Section 9 of the 2004 Asylum and Immigration Act. This measure, widely opposed by children's charities, social workers, refugee groups and the Children's Commissioner, means that families can be evicted from their homes and children taken into care, as local councils have duties to care for the children but no obligations towards the adults in the family. Although Bolton Council has not evicted the Sukula family or placed the children into care, the family are not receiving any benefits, only food donations and some money from their supporters.

The Sukulas are seeking a judicial review of the court's decision. The campaign needs support. For more information, contact NAAR at 020 7247 9907 or email [info@naar.org.uk](mailto:info@naar.org.uk)

### What you can do:

1. sign the online petition at <http://www.wiredjungle.co.uk/sukula/petition.htm>
2. circulate the petition in your student union
3. send a letter to the Home Office about the case. A model letter is available at: [http://www.wiredjungle.co.uk/sukula/model\\_letter.doc](http://www.wiredjungle.co.uk/sukula/model_letter.doc)

## justice for Jay Abatan



Jay Abatan, a 42-year-old Black man was attacked by a gang in Brighton on 24 January 1999. He died in hospital 5 days later after sustaining severe head injuries. His brother Michael and a friend, who were out celebrating his promotion with him, were also attacked.

Two men were arrested and charged with manslaughter – however, by the time of the trial, the charge was dropped to affray and Actual Bodily Harm due to a lack of witnesses. The jury was not allowed to hear of Jay's death as the judge ruled this would prejudice the trial. No one has been tried for Jay's murder.

The police investigation was subject to an inquiry by Essex police which found serious flaws in the case resulting in the original investigating team being replaced. The murder was then treated as a racist killing – two years after it took place. Sussex Police asked the PCA to review the investigation to explore any disciplinary measures. Sussex Police have refused to release the full findings to the family.

Please sign our petition, download our leaflet and visit our web site.

For information visit [www.naar.org.uk/family/jay.asp](http://www.naar.org.uk/family/jay.asp)



## injustice

A film about human rights abuses in the UK  
(98 minutes/documentary/2001)

**WINNER BEST DOCUMENTARY**

– BFM London Film Festival 2002

**WINNER BEST DOCUMENTARY (HUMAN RIGHTS)**

– One World Film Festival 2003

**WINNER NATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD 2003**

### the film the police do not want you to see!

#### Synopsis:

*Injustice* is the story of the struggles for justice by the families of Black people that have died at the hands of police officers. Between 1969 and 1999 more than 1000 people died in police custody in England. Not one police officer has been convicted for any of these deaths. *Injustice* shows how a number of people met violent deaths at the hands of the police and shows how the families of the dead came together to fight for the truth.

**“A rousing hymn to united struggle”**

– *Time Out Critics’ Choice*

#### Film Background:

*Injustice* took seven years to produce. Since its release the police tried to censor the film by threatening legal action against cinemas and the film makers who refused to stop screening the film and instead took it on a national tour. *Injustice* has been described as the most politically controversial UK film of recent years and has gained an international reputation screening at over 70 film festivals around the world. Despite this success UK television has banned the film.

**“One of the most powerful films ever made in this country.”** – The Guardian

**“The film that refuses to die.”**

– The Observer



### families featured:

The families featured in the film are still fighting for justice and need your support – they have formed their own organisation the United Families & Friends Campaign. Deaths in police custody are increasing – in 2002/3 there were 104 deaths. **This means that two people died every week in police custody in the UK.**

### what you can do:

- Over the past three years a number of universities and colleges across the country have organised screenings of the film with speakers invited. Do the same by contacting us at:

**Web: [www.injusticefilm.co.uk](http://www.injusticefilm.co.uk)**

**Email: [info@injusticefilm.co.uk](mailto:info@injusticefilm.co.uk)**

**Tel: 07770 432 439**

- Support the families directly – all demonstrations, campaigns and activities are featured on the website: **[www.uffc.org](http://www.uffc.org)**

- What the NUS is doing:

The Black Students’ Officer is supporting the campaign in a number of ways:

Regional screenings

Conference screenings

Promoting the campaign on the NUS website

To find out what you can do, contact Pav at:

**Email: [pav@nus.org.uk](mailto:pav@nus.org.uk)**

**Mob: 07725 463 816**

## stop and search: know your rights!

**T**he reality for many Black people is that we are over-policed as citizens but under-policed as victims. Stop and search policing disproportionately targets the Black community: Asian people are 18 times more likely to be stopped than white people, and African-Caribbean people 27 times more likely, despite there being little difference in offending rates between the communities.

People need to know their rights, especially if they're unhappy with treatment by the police.

The Lewisham Anti-Racist Action Group will be relaunching its Stop, Search, and Arrest: Know Your Rights card this year.

It has been updated by lawyers at a top legal firm to give advice on your rights, solicitors' contact details and how to complain about unfair treatment. It will be available on the Internet and as a credit card-sized card.

This is a joint initiative with others including the Student Assembly Against Racism. For information, or to order cards for your students, email SAAR: [contactsaar@hotmail.com](mailto:contactsaar@hotmail.com)

### some essential advice:

#### the search

**IF IN PUBLIC** the police can ask you to remove your outer clothing only, such as a coat, or jacket and gloves. They have no legal power to remove any other clothing.

**IF IN PRIVATE** (in a police van or at a police station), the police can ask you to remove all your clothing (a strip search). This has to be carried out by an officer of the same sex as you. Officers of the opposite sex must not be present.

#### afterwards – if you are not arrested

Immediately, you should note down every-

thing: purpose and grounds for the stop and search; date, time and place; name, number and police station of the police officers.

#### arrest and questioning

**DON'T** confess to something you have not done.

**DON'T** have 'off the record' talks with police officers. These can be recorded and used against you.

**DON'T** use the police complaints procedure without consulting a solicitor first.

**DON'T** accept a caution without consulting a solicitor first as this involves an admission of guilt.

**DON'T** sign for any items recovered at the search (e.g. drugs, weapons etc) unless you accept ownership. If you're unsure, seek legal advice.

Consult a solicitor before agreeing to the police taking intimate and non-intimate samples from you. The law is complicated and police now have powers to test for the presence of class A drugs.

Please note: This is not a complete version of all advice on the card. The card is currently being updated due to recent anti-terrorism legislation. Always get legal advice from a solicitor experienced in this area.



## islamophobia

### what is islamophobia?

A major report from the Runnymede Trust in 1998 defined Islamophobia as dread, hatred and hostility towards Islam and Muslims perpetuated by a series of 'closed views' that imply and attribute negative and derogatory stereotypes and beliefs to Muslims. Islamophobia can manifest itself in a number of ways:

- Widespread negative depiction of Muslims and Islam in the media
- Attacks, abuse and violence against Muslims on the street
- Desecration of mosques and cemeteries
- Discrimination in employment
- Lack of provision, recognition and respect for Muslim sensitivities in public institutions

### islamophobia on campus

In the wake of the July 7, 2005 a substantial rise in Islamophobia has occurred, leading to Muslim students feeling alienated on their campuses. In statistics from the Muslim Safety Forum in August 2005, and the FOSIS national survey, attacks in London alone increased a staggering 500%. The FOSIS survey also showed 72% of Muslim women experienced verbal abuse and threatening behaviour, relating directly to their visible Muslim presence. The resultant feeling of alienation can lead to voluntary and involuntary isolation, which only further damages social cohesion in these sensitive times.

The lack of provision for Muslim students has added to their feeling of exclusion from campus life. Two central requirements currently lacking in the education sector are prayer facilities and Muslim chaplains or counselling facilities to support Muslims. With the rise in Islamophobia FOSIS has con-

veyed its concern to the government on these points.

Only when Muslim students begin to see their needs being recognised and catered for will they believe themselves to be valued members of our society. Ensuring the needs of Muslim students is especially crucial in the current climate, and by taking steps to address all minority concerns, we can begin to fulfil the potential of our multicultural society.

### tackling islamophobia

- You can order leaflets on Islamophobia directly from FOSIS or the NUS Black Students' Officer.
- Make contact with Muslim students on your campus. The Islamic society is often a good contact point. Discuss issues with them and work together to address concerns. If you're unsure where to start, contact FOSIS and we can advise you.
- If your union organises multicultural or anti-discrimination weeks and you want exhibition materials about Islam and Muslims to display, you can obtain such resources from FOSIS.
- Many misconceptions exist about Muslim women. You could contact your Islamic Society on campus for information on how to include Muslim women in any campaigns you run.
- Look out for the Anti-Religious Discrimination Conference taking place this year. It is a chance for you to have your concerns about Muslim students answered and an opportunity to get information from Muslim representatives on how to tackle Islamophobia on campus.

This information has been provided by FOSIS (The Federation of Student Islamic Societies).

For further information contact us:

Email: [info@fosis.org.uk](mailto:info@fosis.org.uk)

Web site: [www.fosis.org.uk](http://www.fosis.org.uk)

## who is a refugee?

It seems obvious to us: a refugee is fleeing serious danger back home — it could be war, political persecution, famine, economic crisis or natural disasters. Under international law, only the government of a country can decide whether a person should be granted refugee status and they use the 1951 United Nations Convention on refugees.



According to the convention, a refugee is anyone who *“owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.”*

Someone who has fled from his or her home country and has applied for refugee status in another country is called an **asylum seeker**.

## why students?

As a new generation it is vital that students and young people have a positive attitude towards refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people. Students and young people have time, energy and enthusiasm to give to supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

## how do STAR groups make a difference?

- **Promote awareness of refugee and asylum issues with their peers and in the community**

STAR groups have slept out in ‘mock refugee shelters’, held sponsored head shaves in the

middle of town and grooved the night away at fundraising club nights. Running ‘Journey to Safety’, a refugee simulation activity, is an unforgettable and very real way of bringing refugee issues to young people.

- **Support asylum seekers and refugees by volunteering in the local community**

Members regularly volunteer as befrienders at drop-in centres and have set up initiatives such as after-school clubs and informal English teaching sessions, working closely with local refugee organisations.

- **Campaign on refugee and asylum issues**

STAR has been involved in numerous campaigns, and groups frequently work on issues that are of particular relevance in their local regions, such as detention. This year’s national campaign will be on the rights for unaccompanied minors.

*“As a student society, STAR has proved to be the most fulfilling and enjoyable I have encountered and I can honestly say my student life would have been incomplete without it.”*  
Abby Boulthbee, Leeds STAR

**For more information on STAR, please contact Natasha at 020 7820 4444 or [students@star-network.org.uk](mailto:students@star-network.org.uk)**



## ID cards: hitting your wallet soon?

In the many years the ID card debate has run outside Parliament hundreds of learned and insightful comments were made about the benefits and drawbacks of any ID card scheme, but one argument has stood out in illustrating just how they would change our society.

The Director of Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti, put it this way: “if I am walking down the road with this white person here, who are the police likely to stop and whose card will they want to see?”

Research from countries which have ID cards answers the question unanimously; disproportionately it is the black community who are asked to produce their cards and prove who they are. Given the problems disproportionate use of stop and search already has on community relations in this country, adding ID cards to the mix can only be a bad idea.

This is why Liberty is campaigning against ID cards. The scheme, and the enormous biometric database upon which it rests, will cost anywhere between £5bn and £19bn. Those trying to study while juggling loans and tuition fees will want to know that this money is being well spent, so what are the arguments in favour.

Those who support the scheme have put forward several arguments, but have been careful to say ID cards are no overall solution to any. Originally they were to be crucial in the war against terrorism, yet the Spanish had a full identity card scheme but did not stop the Madrid bombings. Then the discussion became about crime and benefit fraud, yet the 11 European countries which have ID cards have similar rates of crime and benefit

fraud as the four who do not.

We believe the Government has not made its case and that its problems are compounded by the practicalities of the scheme. Biometric technology promises to make ID cards the ‘gold standard’ in proving identity. Yet this technology, the recording of physical characteristics, such as fingerprints, iris and face scans in a digital format, is in its infancy. No country has created a database holding such information anywhere near the size of the one the Government is proposing, 47 million records. In tests the technology has also been shown to have problems scanning the irises of those from an Afro-Caribbean background. So not only are some people going to get stopped more often but the technology is not going to recognise them when they are!

Then there are the 52 pieces of information you will have to provide when you register, and the fines you face if you fail to keep your register up to date or the information is wrong. Given all these problems it is clear that risks to privacy and freedom outweigh any benefits; the ID card bill is just not worth paying.

To find out more visit Liberty at: [www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk](http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk)

Liberty is campaigning against the proposals with NO2ID, a campaigning organisation opposed to the government’s planned ID card and National Identity Register. For information visit: [www.no2id.net](http://www.no2id.net)





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*We aim to reflect the diversity of the public we serve.*

## being an anti-racism officer

By Pav Akhtar  
Convener, NUS Anti-Racism Campaign

**T**here is no definitive guide to what an Anti-Racism Officer does, as every students' union faces a different set of challenges. Issues at one college may be quite apart from another. However, this is not to say that there is no need for anti-racism work, of which there are two clear types: pro-active and reactive. Each is as important as the other and if done correctly can help give a balanced campaign.

### pro-active anti-racism campaigns

Pro-active campaigning is the key to solid anti-racist work and is suitable to every union. The aim is to educate people about students of different ethnic, religious and cultural groups that exist in our multicultural society to prevent any problems. As different groups work together and discover their differences, they will build relationships that extend into wider society. Anti-racism is as much about building bridges between each other, as fighting the endemic racism on the streets.

There are different ways to put this type of campaigning into practice:

- Panel debate and guest speakers
- Joint society events like fashion shows and food fairs
- Articles on different communities in union publications and on display boards
- Displays of equal opportunity and anti-discrimination policy in prominent places
- Getting sports clubs and societies to sign up to an equal opportunities statement
- Using external groups like the National



Assembly Against Racism, SAAR, NBSA and the Anne Frank Trust to raise awareness.

This type of campaign is suited to all students' unions where a no-platform policy exists. Inter-society campaigning is possible when students can exist without the fear and intimidation caused by groups like the BNP. It is strongly recommended that a no-platform policy is in place at your union.

### reactive anti-racism campaigns

Reactive campaigning should not be necessary. However, racism and fascism exist on our campuses. This type of campaigning should have a definitive aim, and you should guide activities towards this. It may be useful to contact the NUS, SAAR, NBSA, FOSIS, UJS, BOSS and NHSF or other unions in your area to run these campaigns. A united campaigning voice can pool resources and co-ordinate events to their maximum potential.

One last thing – Anti-Racism campaigning can be a very daunting activity. If done properly though, the effects will change lives and the society in which we live.