



**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2008**

**FAIR COMMUNITY NEWS RELEASE: USE YOUR VOTE! STOP THE BNP! ELECT A MAYOR WHO REPRESENTS YOU!**

**Register your vote by April 16th**

**Use your vote on May 1<sup>st</sup>**

On **Thursday 1 May 2008**, there will be **local government elections in England and Wales, Greater London Authority elections** and elections for the **Mayor of London**.

**To Register to vote:** contact your borough council or go to [www.londonelects.org.uk](http://www.londonelects.org.uk)

## **RISE OF THE FAR RIGHT IN LOCAL & LONDON ELECTIONS**

Despite attempts at a more respectable image, the BNP continues to be an organisation based on **anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and xenophobia**. Currently the aims of the far right are to create an all white British society based on fear and hatred towards ethnic minorities including Muslims, refugees and asylum seekers.

**Fact:** The BNP has announced that it is standing around 625 candidates in the English council elections and contesting around 30 council seats in Wales, two borough council by-elections in London and the London mayoral and Assembly elections.

**Fact:** 'We are only a year away from the all-important European elections and if results like those achieved by the BNP in 2007 are anywhere near repeated then the BNP will gain several MEPs and this will radically alter the political landscape' (Source: Searchlight<sup>9</sup>)

**Fact:** The Far Right is growing in popularity over recent years and polling evidence from the London Elections Study suggests that 23% of Londoners either have voted or would consider voting for the BNP in future. (Source: London Elections Study<sup>1</sup>)

**To defeat the BNP we must boost voting turnout as every vote counts. We should not allow far-right organisations like the BNP to shape the future of Britain.**

## **UNDER REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY VOTES**

**Fact:** London has the lowest voter registration in the country and half a million Londoner's are still not registered to vote, they could miss out on a chance to vote in the London Mayoral

elections which occur once every four years. Last week the Guardian<sup>2</sup> reported that 'only 29% of non-white Londoners say they are certain to vote in comparison to 41% of white Londoners'. Nearly one in five residents are missing from the electoral role in inner London boroughs and one in ten in outer London. A survey, conducted for the Electoral Commission, suggests that non-registration is particularly high among London's ethnic minority population<sup>3</sup>.

**Fact:** The BNP are relying on people like you and me not voting. FAIR calls upon people from all communities to unite against the BNP. There has never been a more important time to vote.

## **LONDON MAYORAL ELECTIONS: THE MAYOR'S DECISIONS HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE LIVES OF ALL LONDONERS**

The Mayor has a range of specific powers and duties to help set strategies ranging from planning and development to culture and the environment. These strategies affect the lives of all Londoners. It is important to have a say in who represents and makes decisions that affect you. Each candidate has their own set of proposals, which vary greatly from one another, on how to make London a better place. To find out more about what the role of the Mayor is visit <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/>

## **LOCAL ELECTIONS: COUNCILLORS REPRESENT OUR VOICES**

Councillors are elected to represent their local communities and Local Authorities have an estimated 700 different functions and councillors are responsible for making decisions on behalf of their local community and providing a range of services from health and social care, housing, planning and education.

## **REGISTER TO VOTE**

### **To Vote in these elections you MUST Register to Vote by 16 April**

If you are not on the electoral register, you need to fill in a registration form giving your name, age, nationality and address and return it to your borough's elections office.

Registration forms for your borough can be downloaded from here:

[http://www.londonelects.org.uk/registering\\_to\\_vote/registration\\_forms.aspx](http://www.londonelects.org.uk/registering_to_vote/registration_forms.aspx)

To find out what elections are taking place in your borough

<http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/>

## **HOW TO VOTE**

### **Voting for the Mayor**

In the election for the Mayor you have two votes – for a first and an optional second choice.

[http://www.londonelects.org.uk/voting/voting\\_for\\_the\\_mayor.aspx](http://www.londonelects.org.uk/voting/voting_for_the_mayor.aspx)

### **Voting for the London Assembly**

You will receive two ballot papers– to elect two types of Assembly members.

1. Yellow ballot paper: Constituency

2. Peach ballot paper: London-wide members

[http://www.londonelects.org.uk/how\\_to\\_vote/voting\\_for\\_the\\_london\\_assembly.aspx](http://www.londonelects.org.uk/how_to_vote/voting_for_the_london_assembly.aspx)

## Voting Day

### 1. At a polling station

Polling station opening hours are **7am - 10pm**

### 2. Postal Vote

Deadline to apply for a postal vote is **16<sup>th</sup> April 2008**.

Completed postal votes must arrive at your local borough's election office before **10pm on 1 May 2008**. You can also hand deliver to any polling station or your local borough's election office.

### 3. By Proxy

[http://www.londonelects.org.uk/registering\\_to\\_vote/ways\\_to\\_vote\\_-\\_in\\_person.aspx](http://www.londonelects.org.uk/registering_to_vote/ways_to_vote_-_in_person.aspx)

## Further Information:

### Voting

<sup>0</sup>How to keep the BNP out of the London Elections:

[http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/london/How\\_London\\_votes](http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/london/How_London_votes)

<sup>1</sup> Far right extremism in Britain

[http://www.youngfoundation.org.uk/work/research/civic\\_and\\_political/extremism](http://www.youngfoundation.org.uk/work/research/civic_and_political/extremism)

<sup>2</sup>Trust a key issue in London mayoral race | Politics | The Guardian

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/apr/03/london08.localgovernment>

<sup>3</sup> Don't lose out on the chance to have your say

<http://www.london.gov.uk/londoner/08mar/p12a.jsp?nav=city>

The full list of candidates standing in the election for Mayor of London and the London Assembly

[http://www.londonelects.org.uk/candidates/the\\_candidates.aspx](http://www.londonelects.org.uk/candidates/the_candidates.aspx)

Registering & Voting:

<http://www.londonelects.org.uk/PDF/FS3-Register%20and%20vote.pdf>

For a list of local elections visit:

[http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/files/dms/2008-local-elections-by-region-website-20080317\\_28252-20753\\_E\\_N\\_S\\_W.xls](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/files/dms/2008-local-elections-by-region-website-20080317_28252-20753_E_N_S_W.xls)

For more information on how to vote in the local elections in England:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/elections/englandlocal2008.cfm>

For more information on how to vote in the local elections in Wales:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/elections/waleslocal2008.cfm>

BNP and far-right candidates: local elections 2008

[http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/elections/candidatesMap\\_2008.php](http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/elections/candidatesMap_2008.php)

Local Authorities where the BNP pose a threat

[http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/The\\_key\\_battlegrounds\\_2008](http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/The_key_battlegrounds_2008)

BNP and UKIP London Assembly election results - 2004

[http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/london/images/London\\_Assembly\\_2004\\_BNP\\_UKIP.pdf](http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/london/images/London_Assembly_2004_BNP_UKIP.pdf)

The Far Right in the UK Today

[http://www.youngfoundation.org.uk/work/research/civic\\_and\\_political/extremism](http://www.youngfoundation.org.uk/work/research/civic_and_political/extremism)

For more information on how you can get involved to stop the BNP, please contact:

**FAIR** web: [www.fairuk.org](http://www.fairuk.org)

**The 1990 Trust** web <http://www.blink.org.uk/>

**Searchlight Magazine** web [www.searchlightmagazine.com](http://www.searchlightmagazine.com)

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FAIR is an independent charitable organisation established for the purpose of raising awareness of and combating Islamophobia and racism, monitoring specific incidents of Islamophobia and racism, working towards eliminating religious and racial discrimination, and campaigning and lobbying on issues relevant to Muslims and other multi-ethnic, multi-faith communities in Britain.

Further details on each of these projects are available on our website, <http://www.fairuk.org/>  
To see how you can help please visit our website at <http://www.fairuk.org/howtohelp.htm> or contact us on the details below

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