

BLACK SECTION CANDIDATES FOR THE NEC - 1986

We demand the immediate recognition of all the Black Sections established in Constituency Labour Parties around the country. The recommendations of the NEC's special working group in favour of Black Sections being set up where Black party members want them should be incorporated in the constitution. This means Black Section representation at GMC, District Party, Regional party and national party levels.

The party's national leadership has adopted a two-pronged attack on the substantial gains made by the Black Section campaign. The first prong has been to set up the neo-colonialist "Black and Asian advisory committee". The second has been the expulsion from party membership of two leading Birmingham supporters Amir Khan and Kevin Scally. These tactics are well-known to us and have been perfected over many decades of "divide and rule". We totally oppose the witch-hunting of Socialists from the Labour Party. Furthermore, we would refuse to serve on the Black and Asian advisory committee or any other body aimed at Black people but not elected by and accountable to them.

We are committed to furthering the Black Section's anti-imperialist intervention in politics. This means stepping up the fight for Black national liberation in Azania (South Africa), support for the demands of the Palestinians and support for British withdrawal from Ireland. Britain must withdraw from NATO. The grip on developing countries of neo-colonialism and big business has to be broken. The Labour Party must replace its patronising approach to international aid and development with policies relevant to Black people at home and abroad. But the most urgent priority is to isolate racist South Africa. We restate the Black Section's demands for:

- 1.) Immediate disinvestment by unions and Labour authorities;
- 2.) A national Labour Party fund to provide aid for Azania's freedom fighters supported by a national publicity campaign spearheaded by the trade union and Labour Party;
- 3.) An officially-backed refusal by trade unionists to handle South African goods;
- 4.) The unconditional release of all South African political prisoners;
- 5.) A manifesto commitment that a Labour Government will break off diplomatic relations with Pretoria's racist regime and rescind rights to residency in Britain of the one million White South Africans who currently have this entitlement.

Labour must back up its anti-racist statements made in opposition with bold action in government.

Labour's economic policies must be geared to full employment. Ownership by the workers of the commanding heights of British industry must be swiftly achieved. There must be a national minimum wage. Youth Training Scheme slave wages must be ended. Trade union rights for all workers

must be guaranteed. Positive policies aimed at ending racism - including contracts compliance and employment equality targets - must be implemented.

The health service workers - many of whom are low paid and Black - must be properly valued and rewarded. The NHS should be adequately resourced.

Education for all means a crusade against racist stereo-typing by the British school system. The culture, achievements and history of Black people must be positively portrayed.

Racist immigration laws must be repealed. The police must be freed of racist practices and placed under the democratic control of elected representatives. We fully support Black Section policy on policing in that the next Labour Government must:

- 1.) Repeal the 1984 Police Act, the Public Order Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act;
- 2.) Enshrine in law the duty of the police to prosecute perpetrators of race attacks;
- 3.) Set up a fully independent police complaints body;
- 4.) Ban the manufacture, stock-piling, and use of firearms, CS gas, plastic bullets, water cannon and other life-endangering equipment.

Black Section supporters on the NEC will be accountable to all Constituency Labour Parties and will communicate regularly with them. There will be report backs and discussions with the Labour Party Black Section National Committee, its annual conference and duly elected officers.