

Scoreboard

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE STANDING CONFERENCE ON RACIAL EQUALITY IN EUROPE



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APRIL 1995

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SCORE's Border Challenge to 'Fortress Europe'

We Demand Free Movement for All!

REET Charity No: 1021451

The SCORE campaign for free movement in Europe continues with a challenge in the High Court to the UK Government's practise of maintaining immigration and identity checks over people travelling from other member countries of the European Union, despite being partner to the Single European Act and the Maastricht Treaty.

At a hearing at the end of February, lawyers acting for a SCORE supporter argued that the maintenance of these checks and controls at the borders contravenes the provisions of Article 7A of the European Union Treaty, Maastricht Treaty, which states that on the 1 January 1993, the Community embraced a single internal market 'without internal frontiers which is open to the free movement of people.

Speaking at a press conference immediately prior to the court hearing, SCORE's Vice Chair Josephine Ocloo explained that SCORE supports challenges to the continuation of border controls because these measures are aimed in the main against migrant workers, refugees and people in the member states. She stated that such challenges support their rights to benefit on an equal basis from measures designed to promote freedom of movement across the Union.

At the first hearing in the High Court in early March, the judge decided in favour of submissions from the Home Office which argued that despite the explicit reference to the relevant date in the Article, a Union without internal frontiers had not come into being because 'compensatory measures' had first to be introduced by the Community. The Counsel for SCORE supporters had argued that this was a controversial approach to the matter and it would be more appropriate to refer the case to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg for an authoritative ruling on the status of Article 7A. However, the declining of referral to the European Court, has now made it necessary to appeal further to the Court of Appeal. It is hoped that a hearing will take place in April.

In the meantime, SCORE is continuing with its campaign to directly challenge the actions of the authorities with a further series of 'border challenges'. To coincide with the introduction of arrangements between the 'Schengen' group of countries to scrap border controls for travellers within its nine country association taking place (initially amongst seven countries) on 26 March, SCORE supporters will act in conjunction with the EU Migrants' Forum to mount challenges in France, Germany and the UK during the final week of March. The challenges are expected to highlight the lack of uniformity in dealings with travellers between the member states, and the complex mass of



SCORE rally at Maastricht calling for freedom of movement

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Consultative Commission on Racism and Xenophobia

Last June at the Corfu Summit, the Council of Ministers of the European Union (EU) set up a Commission on Racism, at the main instigation of Germany and France. The Commission has members from all the current 15 members of the EU, and some additional consultants. The two British members are Baroness Shreela Flather, a Conservative member of the House of Lords, and Kamlesh Bahl, Chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The Commission works through three subcommittees, on communication and the role of the media, on education and training (including judges and the police) and on the role of the police and the criminal justice system. The latter is being chaired by Baroness Flather.

The interim report of the Commission was presented to the Essen Summit of the Council of Ministers in December. In a statement, the Council said it urged the Consultative Commission to step up its work, in order to help 'elaborate an overall strategy against racism and xenophobia'. It is proposed to adopt this strategy at the Cannes Summit at the end of the French Presidency in June.

Representatives of the European Commission staff, Amnesty international, the Churches Commission for Migration in Europe and the Migrants Forum met with Ms Bahl last November in Brussels. They stressed to her the importance of the EU adopting the European Convention of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, and the need to establish a legal base in the Treaty of Rome/Maastricht to provide for competence for the EU to tackle racism and racial discrimination, including within the police and judiciary. Furthermore, it was suggested that the EU Commissioner for Social Affairs should also have responsibility for race issues, and that in EU work the contribution of Black, Migrant and Minority (BM&M) communities should continually be emphasised, counteracting the negative stereotyping that usually prevails.

SCORE supporters are urged to write to Baroness Flather at the House of Lords, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA, and to Ms Kamlesh Bahl, Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House, Quay St., Manchester M3 3HN, with copies to Glyn Ford MEP, to press the case for legislation. Such efforts are particularly important as it is well known that the British Government is not sympathetic to this idea, and as efforts to lobby the Intergovernmental Conference of 1996 gathers momentum.

David Haslam

SCORE EGM

12.00-5.30PM

Saturday APRIL 29th 1995

SCORE members are invited to an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to be held at the

Tenant's Association, near Conway hall, Red Lion Square, nearest tube Holborn.

EGM to set the date for SCORE's AGM and establish the apparatus to set SCORE along the road to fight Euro racism for another year.

SCORE'S BORDER CHALLENGE

(continued from front page)

differing rules and conditions that apply at each national border.

SCORE believes the argument is clear. If the EU is to flourish as a genuine community of citizens and residents participating in the economy as workers, business people, service providers and service recipients, then the rules governing the rights of movement should enshrine the principle of equality.

SCORE is arguing and campaigning for free movement for everyone resident within the member states, and against a system which privileges certain categories of people against others.

SCORE demands Free Movement for All!

Don Flynn

SCORE Says "We are fighting for the freedom of movement of black people throughout Europe. We have to take our battle to the courts, to the airports and to the streets of Europe to ensure our voices are heard. It is black people who are targeted by these stringent and often humiliating border controls. We will oppose them in any way we can"

For enquiries and information requests on SCORE's Border Challenges call 071 795 0227 (address on front page). Donations for the campaign are also welcome.

Strategies for Black European Networking

SCORE's Alternative Summits

Josephine Ocloo Reports on the achievement of SCORE's June 1994 'Alternative Summit' as SCORE considers further strategies to impact on the Intergovernmental Conference in 1996.

The SCORE fourth Alternative Summit was held from the 25th-27th June 1994 in London. It proved to be the most important Summit to date in attendance, information exchanged, networking and in providing strategies for Black, Migrant and Minority communities to confront the European Union (EU) fortress.

The 'Alternative Summits' began as a SCORE initiative for BM&M communities from across the EU to put forward their agenda and concerns to coincide with the official Council of Ministers Summits held every six months in the country holding the EU presidency. The Alternative Summits were about empowering BM&M people to have a voice in shaping and tackling the issues affecting their lives.

In June 1994, it was Germany's turn to take over the Presidency and SCORE held its Alternative Summit in London. There was the added bonus that it would coincide with the Commission for Racial Equality and SCORE's 'Europe Symposium'. The co-sponsored event aimed at for example providing strategies for action towards securing amendments to the Maastricht Treaty set for 1996. SCORE's involvement more importantly provided a forum for SCORE's 'Black Agenda' for action, which the Alternative Summit fed into and extended.

Fortress Europe

The Summit participants travelling from 10 of the EU countries, had come 'face to face' with 'fortress Europe' even before arrival. Many of the delegates had felt obliged to disguise the nature of their visit, finding it easier to state they were coming to London on a 'holiday'. Others had waited months for a visa and even then had been subjected to many intimate and irrelevant personal questions before being allowed to visit, only to be faced with further intimidation on arrival at Heathrow airport.

The treatment of Gaston, our French delegate, highlighted the situation faced by BM&M people throughout the EU. Despite being a French citizen, he was refused leave to travel, not by immigration officers, but by over zealous ferry company operators at Calais. Only strong representations and protest led by SCORE's Chair, Bernie Grant MP, enabled him to finally attend the Summit, determined to expose the racist immigration policies.

Networking and Information Exchange

Reinforced by their problems travelling, the delegates attending the three day Alternative Summit, talked passionately about their experiences of racism, and their ideas for collective action initiatives in areas such as immigration control and freedom of movement. Delegates further talked of the retreat of the Left and the ascendancy of the Right in mainstream politics. We heard how Governments in Italy, France, Germany and the UK were seen to have adopted even more authoritarian, populist and nationalistic positions; they were focusing on the 'threat' of foreigners, refugees and asylum seekers in order

to have an excuse to attack the human and civil rights of BM&M peoples resident in the EU, at the same time as reinforcing immigration controls. The position of France was particularly highlighted here with its commitment to 'zero immigration'. This had led to attacks on BM&M peoples, rigid policing of their immigration status with any excuse used to deport people regardless of their length of residence in the country. The squalid conditions faced for example by Africans exploited for their labour, in 'tin can' shanty towns in hidden pockets of Lisbon was also stressed.

Racial Attacks

The discussion about the rise in racial violence, showed how manifest it was in many EU countries. We heard about incidents such as that in Magdeburg, where on the 12th May a hundred neo-nazis pursued and beat a small group of Africans, whilst bystanders and the police watched. There was also another notorious racist attack in Rome in early June against two Africans; the police who arrested the skin head perpetrators were confronted with incensed locals jeering and hurling rubbish at them.

Delegates agreed that the EU had systematically limited the economic and social position of BM&M over a long period of time and this was being furthered in the climate of recession in the 1990's; they were being forced to bear the brunt of widespread cuts in welfare state provision, jobs, housing and social services. The Summit ended with delegates reaffirming their commitment to such alternative forums to share experiences, information and strategies.

Looking Ahead

Delegates reinforced their support for SCORE's Free Movement campaign and its Border Challenges, particularly the proposal of a freedom bus across Europe. SCORE was urged to secure resources for such initiatives in order to place the problems BM&M people face with freedom of movement and the endemic racism, exemplified by the experience of the Summit delegates, firmly on the political agenda.

Josephine Ocloo - SCORE Vice Chair

**PROFILE:
BLACK WOMEN**

**The Black Women and
Europe Network
(BWEN)**

The Black Women and Europe Network will be having its AGM in Paris on the 29th April. On the 30th March the British section of the network will elect its representatives to Paris. Whilst it welcomes the involvement of women who are generally interested, it is women who represent organisations that will qualify for elections to the European AGM.

The network, which saw its formation through a meeting organised by the European Parliament Green Group in November 1991, and through a series of meetings organised by Islington Women's Unit, initially concentrated on developing its European wide structure. However in 1995, it finds it self concentrating on formalising its structure with in each European member state. Hence since 1994, the UK group has worked on developing its structure, which it hopes will become fully constituted at its AGM in March. With no workers or finances, it still sees itself has having become more structured, with a healthy mailing list of interested women and a newsletter called 'transitions' regularly produced. It also hopes soon to secure funding in order to establish a small office.

Activities include in September 1994, a Seminar on the 'Social Exclusion of Women and 'Combating Social Exclusion with Funds from the EU', with papers provided by Helen Felter and Rita Nalooop from the Netherlands. This occasion was mainly an opportunity for information gathering. However, BWEN hopes to move towards carrying out more primary research and taking up issues highlighting the UK experience, and at the same time developing its structure to be more regionally representative. **For Information call Joan Sadler on 0181 885 4705.**

AQUI NOSOTRAS

This Latin American Women's Network had its second conference from 8-10 March in Denmark. It centred around 'Latin American and European Women working together across Europe' through a series of workshops focusing on domestic workers in Spain, prostitution in Holland, and 'mixed relationships'. The mainly Latin American women meeting, agreed the need for more research compilation to provide a picture on Latin American Women's working lives within Europe. The meeting focused on 'issues' that affect Latin American Women rather than organisational structure. This type of initiative is indicative of the ways in which BM&M women are networking across the EU. The network next plans to have a conference in the Autumn.

AQUI NOSOTRAS has its central office based in Belgium, through the auspices of an NGO working on Latin American issues, SAGO. It has a regular newsletter and a part-time worker. Though it began as an organisation offering support and information so that 'European Women can learn from Latin American Women', it has now evolved to articulate and lobby on issues of concern. The member of the network in each country sets their own priorities and structure for organisation. This has hence resulted in meetings during December 1994 in Hamburg on the trafficking of women and prostitution, and in Berlin looking at women's working conditions in Germany's main cities. The latter was organised by Latin American women who secured funding in Germany to facilitate its success. In Britain, the network organised, coinciding with the 'Day against Violence against Women', a gathering of women to focus on domestic violence; this included legal advocates, organisations and women who had experienced such violence. Furthermore, networking was not just confined to the EU but also included a speaker sharing her experiences in Brazil.

**For more information contact SAGO,
c/o Aqui Kosotras, Lauge
Lozanasstraat 4, 2018 Antwerp,
Belgium or in the UK Erica Paez
0181 693 1800.**

**PROFILE:
BLACK WOMEN**

**Publications
and
Events**

• **Cruz, A (1995) Shifting Responsibility**, Carrier's liability in the Member states of the EU and North America; considers incompatibilities between this and human rights; £9.95 contact 017182 745567.

• **European Parliament (1995) Confronting the Fortress**; B&M Women in the EU, produced by B&MW project team for the European Women's Lobby, includes nine country profiles, case studies on immigration and training and a list of European contacts; phone 32-2-217-90-20.

• **People's Tribunal (1994) Immigration and Asylum** 25th November 1993, organised by the Campaign Against Immigration Act Detentions; puts the British government on trial for human and civil rights violations particularly through personal testimonies; includes demands

for changes in Immigration and Asylum immigration legislation and a contact list of organisations; available c/o Migrant Support Unit 0171 916 1646.

• **Searchlight (1995) Reunited Germany The New Danger**, the dark side of the new Germany, considers new conservative nationalism and revival of German militarism, price £5 from 37B New Cavendish Street, London WIM8JR.

• **Webber, I (1995) Europe on Trial**, an indictment of the violation of the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers; taken from representation to the Basso Tribunal on the right to asylum in Europe in December 1994; price £1.50 call IRR 0171 837 0041.

6 April: Newham Monitoring Project, public meeting on policing at Shaolam Centre 395 High Street North, Manor Park, London E123 phone 0181 555 8151.

15-23 April: Migrants Organisations - Catalysts for Change and Development; International Seminar in Berlin; themes include migration policy, development education and aid policy; organised by

Kairos Youth Co-ordination phone 32-2-4783470.

29 April: March for Florence Okolo, anti-deportation campaign; starting point All Saints Park, Oxford Road Manchester, phone 0161 740 7722.

13-14 May: Law of Refugee Status; an international workshop in Oxford organised by the Refugees studies Programme; includes such themes such as refugee definition and the application of legal norms based on actual scenarios of refugee claims; phone 01865 270723.

18-27 May: Situation and Perspectives of Minority Young people in Europe; international training course for minority youth leaders organised by the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe; phone 33-88-412962.

16 June: International Refugees Day; Europe wide campaign co-ordinated by UNITED network; phone 31 20-6834778.

24 June: National Day of Action against Detentions; contact Campsfield campaign 01865 724452.