



October 2005, No. 11

Earthquake Appeal

The earthquake, which struck on the morning of 8th October 2005, was one of the most devastating natural disasters in the history of South Asia. More than forty thousand people are now known to have lost their lives, but thousand of others could die in the coming weeks due to a lack of insulated tents, blankets and plummeting temperatures. Many of MENTER's member organisations are

organising collections of money and goods. In Bedford on Friday 14th October MENTER's chair, Kuldip Rupra joined local elected mayor Frank Branson, Patrick Hall MP and Asif Nadir, chair of the local mosque, and Cllr. S Khan to launch an urgent appeal for both goods and money.

The meeting was attended by many members of Bedford's diverse

communities, some of whom are personally affected by the disaster as well as charities, such as the Rotary and churches.

Donations can be made through the Disaster Emergency Committee (www.dec.org.uk or 0870 60 60 900) or the Pakistan High Commission (www.pakmission-uk.gov.pk or 0207 664 9217).

If you would like to find out about local collections, or if you are organising one, please contact the MENTER office.

Want to become an MP?

Based on the unprecedented success of the 1999 & 2002 MP Shadowing programmes, Operation Black Vote supported by The Electoral Commission and in collaboration with the main three political parties is proud to announce the third MP Shadowing Scheme.

This nationwide scheme aims to nurture future leaders, and encourage and inspire Black and other minority ethnic (BME) communities to positively engage in civic society.

OBV invite Black and minority ethnic individuals 18 years and over to apply

to join the scheme. The programme will allow twenty-one individuals to shadow Members of Parliament from constituencies around Britain and from the three main political parties. Participants will assist the MPs or Peers with their daily work for a minimum of eight (non-consecutive) days.

For an MP Shadowing Scheme application form and details please contact OBV - Tel: 0208 983 5430 E-mail: mp@obv.org.uk or download the application form from our website: www.obv.org.uk

Extended closing date: Friday, 12th November 2005

MENTER is funded by the Home Office/Active Community Unit and EEDA

**Our offices:
62-64 Victoria Road
Cambridge
Tel. 01223 355034
Fax 01223 359047**

**E-mail:
office@menter.org.uk
www.menter.org.uk**

**Deadline next issue:
10th January 2006**



The power of music in community settings



Do you know how powerful music making in community settings is? What a difference it can make – both to individual lives and the life of the community?

Music work with young offenders increases their basic and literary skills. In healthcare settings trials have shown it reduces the need for drugs. And in community settings it promotes community cohesion, gives disenfranchised people a voice, and provides an accessible and inclusive route to personal expression and social interaction.

Musicians working in these and many other ways are called 'community musicians.' What is community music? At its simplest level, community music is a participatory music making activity which takes place in a community setting. Community musicians run singing workshops in schools, drumming workshops in prisons, DJ workshops in rural community centers.....

Community music is about people making music, because through that process they contribute to the development of an empowered, fulfilled, educated and healthy society. Community music takes place in a community, either a community of place or a community of interest, and it involves active participation from the

people involved. In many cases, it is not dependent on the skills of the participants involved and seeks to respond to what is there rather than to impose anything from outside. As such, community music is intrinsically linked with notions of inclusion and accessibility.

Community music is about exploring a notion of social interaction through music. In other words, you start with a community's needs and wants and feelings, and see how you can address these through music. A community music project might involve working with a group of elderly people in a care setting to rekindle memories or working with a group of disenfranchised youth in an estate to address isolation or racism and involve them in the community through music making activities that they can relate to and feel part of.

Learning more about how you can use music to deliver community benefits is easy, for there is a national development agency for community music, Sound Sense. We exist to promote the significance and value of community music and to assist community music practitioners in their professional development.

Sound Sense is a membership organisation, however, it freely dispenses advice and support to any who need it and in furtherance of it's

key vision.

The Sound Sense office can be contacted with questions and requests with respect to community music and staff always do their best to help. This service is open to members and non members alike.

Sound Sense runs the National Music and Disability Information Service which gives free advice and information on music to people with disabilities or those who work with, or who want to work with, the disabled.

The Sound Sense website always contains lot of up to date information regarding community music events, funding, training and employment opportunities, including events run by Sound Sense itself. You can access 'Arts Connect' through the Sound Sense web site. Arts Connect is a new web-based search engine for the arts. By searching thousands of database items across specialised arts websites you can find information about arts and artists which you may not find by using general web searches.

Sound Sense organises at least 6 networking events per year, usually a day in length and including free lunch and refreshments. The days are free networking and continuing professional development events for community musicians and those

interested in community music. Although members receive priority information about such gatherings, they are open to all.

The networking days, or area gatherings as we tend to call them, are usually themed on a particular topic. Recent topics include; making sense of evaluation; musicians in schools; working in social inclusion; community arts in health and social care settings; the business of community music and working as a community musician.

Members receive 16 publications a year and have access to books, papers and information sheets. Publications include 'Sounding Board', the journal of community music and 'Link', a magazine with aims to education the music education community. Members also receive 'Bulletin Board' which is packed full of information on training, events and funding for community musicians.

Sound Sense has recently introduced a free criminal records enhanced disclosure countersignatory service for members.

For membership details or information on community music please contact the Sound sense office on 01449 673990 / info@soundsense.org

Ipswich Caribbean Association celebrates 30th Anniversary

On Saturday 17th September Ipswich Caribbean Association (ICA) celebrated its 30th Anniversary. It started at 8pm and finished at 1.30 in the morning. The food and entertainment were also enjoyed by the Jamaican High Commissioner and the Barbados Deputy-/high Commissioner as well as Ipswich's MP and Deputy Mayor. A sneak preview was given about ICA's new oral history project. More information about this project can be found on www.iceproject.com. The project will be officially launched on 5th November. For further details please ring 01473 222 326.



Left to right:: Barbados Deputy-High Commissioner Mr. Herbert Yearwood, Chris Moles Ipswich MP, Jamaican High Commissioner Gail Mathurin, ICA founder member/ Treasurer, Albert Grant OBE, ICA Chairman Sylvan Carr, Ipswich Deputy Mayor Cllr. Roger Fern.

Mentoring is a real help at times of stress

A mentoring approach is proven to be particularly beneficial for vulnerable groups, where sharing experiences can help overcome feelings of isolation and low self esteem.

The East Mentoring Forum (EMF – see www.mentfor.co.uk), is a networking organisation. It helps to facilitate the development of self-sustaining mentoring programmes and to encourage training and accreditation of mentors. It provides advice, resources, practical help and support for everyone with an interest in mentoring. Members are individuals with an interest in mentoring.

One of the programmes EMF supports is the Greenhouse Mentoring Scheme in Luton which has successfully boosted school attendance by children from diverse ethnic groups. The mentoring project has over 60 volunteers from Bedfordshire who have joined together to provide support to asylum and refugee children from around the world. The children, many who had come from war-torn

countries were having real difficulties at school.

Sue Pirks, project manager at Greenhouse Mentoring explains that many of the children had such problems at school that they were simply refusing to go, “By pairing children and their families with a trained mentor the project provides support educationally with reading and writing and offers guidance to the culture of this country.

“Where possible we pair up mentors and mentees from the same ethnic group, it gives someone to talk to who understands the issues they face, providing them with a trusting relationship that usually turns into a good friendship.”

Vince Hagedorn, executive director of the Forum sees mentoring as a good way of providing support and friendship to people who feel isolated.

He said: “Mentoring is helpful in any life changing situations as it provides friendly but challenging support and encouragement providing a sounding board for decision making .”



EMF is keen to support pioneering schemes such as that set up for Black and minority ethnic groups within the National Health Service. Dr Ho Law, a chartered psychologist with Emsy Ltd has been working with Sara Ireland of the Strategic Health Authority to develop a leadership programme aimed at these groups. Ho and his colleague found that existing mentoring frameworks were too Euro-centric and made many cultural assumptions. They created a ‘Universal Framework’ to underpin the mentoring that is four dimensional and related to developing the core competences needed by leaders in the health services.

For more information about EMF and to register for details of its free meetings or workshops visit the website www.mentfor.co.uk . It is free of charge and changes lives.

How good is your draft local compact?

The Local Compact Developers Network now has over 140 members, representing a 3rd of all Local Compact areas in England.

There's a new article in the Local Compact latest section at www.thecompact.org.uk – How good is your draft Local Compact (or published document)?

On the website you will also find information about Local Compact Week, 1-7th November.

Ethnicity in the East of England

Did you know...?

- Nearly 80% of Indian males and 70% of Black Caribbean females are economically active in the Region?
- Nearly 73% of Pakistani headed households own their own homes?
- 40% of Black African households live in privately rented accommodation?

This and other information will soon be available in a MENTER research report. MENTER has commissioned Cambridgeshire County Council to provide a review of ethnicity in the East of England. The research uses census 2001 data to highlight quantitative issues relating to the BME communities in the Region. It focuses on health, including mental health issues; housing; economic activity and employment patterns and; racially motivated crime and fear of crime.

The research will be available on the MENTER website from November 2005.

Shelter Eastern Region research into housing advice needs

Shelter has recently carried out a small piece of qualitative research with key agencies to explore the housing advice needs of client groups not currently accessing specialist housing advice in the Eastern Region. These groups were identified as migrant workers, Gypsies and Travellers, and non-English speaking groups including Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

Below is a brief outline of the information obtained relating to migrant workers. Clients making contact with issues just relating to housing were few. All four interviewed agencies reported that housing difficulties was usually mixed in with other issues and that the timing of the contact varied – sometimes before clients had taken any action themselves, sometimes after they had tried to resolve the issue. There was general consensus as to why clients were unsuccessful in achieving the outcome they wanted, or why they had not approached any other agencies for help first. These can be summarised as:

- Lack of knowledge,
 - No or little understanding of the system and therefore not following the correct procedures,
 - Lack of English,
 - Inability to complete forms
- Lack of trust on the part of clients,

- Lack of confidence,
- Shortage of (suitable) housing.

All four agencies had access to interpreters – either Intran or bilingual community workers. The suggested barriers faced by these client groups in accessing housing advice covered many areas including broad institutional attitudes through to basic logistics.

- Many migrant workers are employed in the factories and work long shifts making it difficult to get to the housing offices,
- Perceptions – agencies question whether the cultural diversity of these groups is always acknowledged by council officers and service providers. The “one size fits all” approach is possibly a barrier,
- Misinformation from the Press ,
- Limited or no English means communication is difficult ,
- Cultural differences – some clients unaware that overcrowding is viewed as a problem,
- Lack of knowledge on how to go about renting in the private market.
- Don't know their rights with respect to employment law

Suggested improvements to access to housing advice for clients included:

- Basic housing information on entitlements, rights and procedures translated into the

main languages of the BME communities in this area.

- Information needs to be presented simply and attractively as many migrant workers, although not illiterate, will have had limited education
- Set up a good referral system
- Simplify procedures for accessing public and private sector accommodation
- Specialist housing adviser at the CAB on a regular basis
- Use of interpreters by Housing Office, Social Services and CAB
- Use of a standard template of basic information that agencies need to get across and ensure that clients understand

Shelter would like to work with the agencies involved in this research & any other agencies advising migrant workers to ensure they can access timely housing advice.

If you would like more information about the research with regards to migrant workers, Gypsies and Travellers, and non-English speaking groups including asylum seekers and refugees, please contact:

Carolyn Howell
Regional Development Manager
01603 667764 ext 207
CarolynH@shelter.org.uk

COMPACT action plan with GO-East

The Regional Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) partnership is at an exciting new phase of COMPACT work with the development of a COMPACT action plan with GO-East. This may then be widened to include other partners such as the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). MENTER, COVER and Rural Action East are leading this work for the regional VCS.

The key objectives of this action plan will be to:

- (1) help develop a shared understanding and appreciation of the role, function, work and benefits of the Regional VCS and Government Office;
- (2) strengthen partnership working

between the Regional VCS Partners and Government Office – in particular to ensure that partners have a full and early knowledge of any revised or emerging national or regional policies or programmes that have an impact on their work and can provide a co-ordinated response as appropriate and

(3) improve understanding of the COMPACT and promote and practise COMPACT compliant working. All partners will review the action plan to ensure that it is inclusive of the voluntary and community sector perspective including small community organisations, social enterprises, BME organisations, faith and rural groups.

News in short

- MENTER's AGM on September 26th in Cambridge was well attended. To download the annual report and view pictures of the event, please visit www.menter.org.uk. You can also ring the office if you would like a copy of the annual report.
- Aruna Sharma has been appointed as Sports Equality Officer for Women and BME Communities in the East of England. She will start on 1st December in the MENTER Cambridge office.
- Read all about how to start a Heritage Lottery Fund in your area on www.menter.org.uk
- We like to congratulate Jim Thakoordin, trustee of MENTER, on his informed and challenging article entitled 'Community development work in a changing environment', which has been inserted in this newsletter and is also available from www.menter.org.uk

ISCRE & NNREC appoint Race Equality Officers

Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) and Norwich & Norfolk Racial Equality Council (NNREC) have appointed Race Equality Officers.

Gitanjali Banerji will be managing ISCRE's casework. She will also be monitoring quality control standards; working in partnership with public, private and voluntary sector bodies to improve their capacity to deliver services and standards in line with

race equality legislation; and ensuring that ISCRE's programme of work identifies and addresses local priorities and issues affecting Suffolk BME communities, including community cohesion.

Gitanjali, who has a First Class Honours Degree in English Literature and Comparative Studies, previously worked as assistant to the Faiths Officer at the Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource (SIFRE) and researcher on

the experience of BME students for Suffolk College.

Gitanjali is based at ISCRE offices in Ipswich. You can contact her on tel. 01473 408111 or by email to office@iscre.org.uk

Julie Benson has also been appointed as Race Equality Officer at NNREC. Julie is based at NNREC offices in Norwich. You can contact her on tel. 01603 611644 or by email julie.benson@nnrec.org.uk

Essex REC advocacy Service

Essex Racial Equality Council, in partnership with Essex Social Care is providing an Advocacy Service to Black and minority ethnic people in Essex, who have either mental health issues, sensory impairment, substance abuse or a learning disability.

The Black and Minority Ethnic Support Service is open to individuals, families and carers who feel they would like the additional support of a BME advocate in circumstances where this support would help in terms of language and cultural barriers when accessing mainstream services.

What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is the process of enabling people to speak up for what they want, to help represent their interests and

obtain their rights to gain access to services that meet their needs.

Our advocates are staff who are trained in advocacy, race and diversity to support Black and minority ethnic people in voicing their needs to the appropriate person, agency or service provider.

How can we support you?

- By helping to voice your opinions regarding a service you may be receiving should English not be your first language.
- We can offer support when attending reviews, tribunals and other meetings with professionals

With your consent we can represent or speak on your behalf

To organisations:

We can support your own advocates to help in breaking down cultural and language barriers so that your clients could access information and make informal decisions quicker.

Who can use the Service?

- Care workers
- Anyone who has a mental health need between the ages of 18-65 and lives in Essex
- Advocacy organisations
- Anyone who has a learning disability
- Black and minority ethnic carers
- People aged 18-65 who are having to deal with substance abuse.

For a request for support telephone 01268 465068 anytime between 9.30 – 12.30 and 1.30 – 4.30p.m Monday to Friday. Further information on this service contact the Projects Co-ordinator at our Southend Office on 01702 333351.

Get involved with your local hospital : Papworth

Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is delighted to have developed a strong membership community in its first year as an NHS Foundation Trust.

Approximately 10,000 have signed up to become members of the Trust since July 2004. As an NHS Foundation Trust, we are accountable to our members and have a bigger responsibility than ever before to strengthen our links with patients and the public.

Despite this success, we are keen to extend our membership in order to make it as representative as possible of the community we serve. Having a broad and representative membership will help us to better tailor the services we provide to the needs of the people who use them. Knowing what you think helps us to respond to your needs more effectively.

Throughout this year, Papworth Hospital is particularly encouraging membership from certain groups of the community who are currently underrepresented in its membership – women, young people, and Black and minority ethnic communities. Papworth recruiters have been out in force over the summer months, raising the hospital's profile and recruiting members at events such as the Papworth Fete and the East of England Show. Since April we have increased our membership community by over 1,250 people, and have made steady progress towards our targets.

Although we are very pleased with our achievements so far, we are keen that members themselves also play a role in developing the membership community and recruiting fellow

members. For this reason we are piloting a pioneering new project – Papworth Membership Champions.

Being a Membership Champion will not be a demanding role – it doesn't need to take up much of your time, you will receive all the support you need, and we will be hugely grateful for any help you can give us in championing Papworth membership.

So what will it mean? Well, if you run or belong to a community organisation, youth club, church group, or if you simply have an affection for Papworth and are keen to let other people know about it - being a Membership Champion can be as simple as telling your friends and colleagues about what the Papworth NHS Foundation Trust is all about, and encouraging them to join you and become members.

We hope that many of our members – past and current patients, family and friends, and everyone with an interest in what we do - will help us to make this project a success. With the help of current members spreading the word among future members, we can together strengthen Papworth's NHS Foundation Trust community, and improve what we do for all of the community. We will make it easy and provide you with all the materials you will need and we will be there to listen to any feedback or ideas you might have.

If you are interested in becoming a Papworth Membership Champion, or if you would like more information about this project, please contact Hannah Charnock on 0208 688 0650 or email her at hannah@thecampaigncompany.co.uk

If you do not live near Papworth, but would like to get involved in your local hospital's service delivery, please contact them to find out about similar schemes.

New Home Office Fund for Faith Groups

A fund has been launched as part of the Government's 'Improving Opportunity and Strengthening Society' strategy. The fund will support the Government's aim to help faith communities promote understanding and dialogue.

Timing

The fund is open for applications between now and 2 December 2005. Large and small grants are available. The total funding for the large grants to be distributed between January 2006 and March 2007 is up to £1 million. Applicants will need to submit proposals that demonstrate successful delivery of the key priorities for the fund, it is expected that the majority of large grants will be up to £50,000, although applications for larger grants will be considered. Small

grants will be up to £5,000. All funding must be spent by 31 March 2007.

Key priorities

The fund has two key priorities:

- capacity building and
- interfaith activity.

The guidance notes provide details of these priorities and examples of activities. The purpose of funding capacity building is to strengthen groups' organisational capabilities to enable them to sustain themselves in order to play a fuller part in civil society and community cohesion, and engage more effectively with public authorities.

Interfaith activity involves programmes designed to bring people of different faiths together to

promote mutual understanding, respect and co-operation.

Proposals that have a significant focus on women's and/or young people in any of the areas of work identified will be given particular consideration.

Eligible organisations

This fund is aimed at local, regional and national faith-based groups/organisations and inter faith groups/organisations in England and Wales who can meet any of the priorities outlined above. Umbrella and representative groups/organisations in England and Wales who can meet any of the priorities outlined above can also apply.

Support

If you have any questions please call the helpline on 01223 400341 or email fundingadmin@cdf.org.uk

Further information is available from www.cdf.org.uk

Members' Spotlight: Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum

Since a couple of weeks an official thank you from London 2012 is displayed at the reception of Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF).

CECF has promised to be a centre co-ordinating volunteers for the Olympic Games in seven years time. Although this is still nearly 2,500 days away, it is all part of the big plan that Dr Nim David Njuguna is masterminding.

Nim Njuguna wears many hats. He is founder and trustee of NECT, an international environmental charity, and volunteer chaplain of the Apostolic Congress of Great Britain (ACGB). In July he also became the new director of the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) as Bryn Hazell left the position after seven years.

Although he has only been in post for a couple of months, Nim already has developed strong ideas about the direction in which he would like to steer the Forum. He has initiated a youth leadership programme and this is where the Olympic Games play a part. "The leadership programme will be a year long training programme for young people. It will aim to get them ready for political office, to give them a voice." There are several ways in which Nim plans to do this, in addition to some formal training. Nim: "There will be a three week working holiday on a community project in Kenya, through NECT and the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Programme. Also, we will invite voluntary sector organisations who would like to have young people on their management committee."

The objectives of the leadership programme are derived from community cohesion needs: "The future lies in not having another Oldham", says Nim who has extensive experience working on youth and community projects in London. "BME young people need

to have a voice. We need to get them ready to mainstream their issues and to move out of the gettorised mentality." According to the statistics about one third of voluntary sector organisations have neither young people or individuals from a minority ethnic background on their management committee.

"Dialogue around key issues is the only way to mainstream B M E issues", says N i m . Pushing the B l a c k agenda and representing the opinions of the BME population in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire is CECF's key role. Nim plans to

do this in two ways. First of all he aims to set up focus groups/study circles around service delivery issues. Nim emphasizes that this is not a focus group which will be wheeled out once in a while and put back in the cupboard again: "This will be an on-going live Action focus group." The young leadership programme will also double up as a focus group. Both will, according to Nim, be crucial to the Forum for performing its representational role according to its constitution.

Secondly the Forum aims to play a scrutiny and monitoring role with regards to the Race Relations Amendment Act (2000). Nim: "We have to be proactive in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire with regards to anybody who receives public funds." Race equality impact

assessments are high on Nim's agenda and when he says that he wants to quote chapter and verse, he not only talks as a chaplain, but also as CECF's director with regards to statistics showing BME inequalities.



Director Nim Njuguna is very pleased that CECF hosts "Being: Not Being Black" Exhibition as part of Black History Month.

At the moment though, he hasn't had much time for studying figures.

After his first AGM as CECF's director at the end of September, his time was taken up by the arrangements for Black History Month events in Cambridge. CECF is one of two venues hosting the exhibition "Being: Not being Black", put together by artist Hakim Onitolo of Artworks, in collaboration with the African Studies Centre of Cambridge University.

Nim is very pleased about showing part of the exhibition at the Forum: "It is important to celebrate our Black Heritage as well as today's Black culture. CECF wants to be part of this."

NIACE Annual Race Equality Conference Adult Education: What's in it for Black and Minority Ethnic Learners

Thursday 1 December 2005
Sheffield Hallam University

The main purpose of the conference will be to explore the levels of achievement, areas of engagement and the experience of Black and minority ethnic learners in adult education. The rationale for this relates to the following issues and findings:

- Certain minority group adults do not participate in adult education to a representative extent, particularly African Caribbean men and Bangladeshi and Pakistani Women
- Some minority group learners do not do as well as they might when they do participate
- Students from certain minority groups are absent from a range of curriculum areas. This is particularly true in relation to construction and work-based learning.
- Many students do not progress when they do engage – this is particularly true for ESOL students

Through presentations and workshops delivered by a range of experienced practitioners from across the adult education field the conference will take a thematic approach exploring a broad range of areas that bear on participation and success. These will include:

- Leadership, management, policy and strategic approaches to issues of race and racism
- The curriculum
- Intercultural competencies
- Fostering dynamic links and good relations with Black and minority ethnic communities.

If you would like to reserve a place for conference Ref C12-56 online and view the programme for the day, visit the NIACE website: <http://www.niace.org.uk/Conferences/race-equality05.htm>

Enquiries to: Gurjit Kaur on Tel: 0116 2042833
<mailto:gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk>

**Publish your events
on MENTER's website**

E-mail your events to
office@menter.org.uk and we will
publish them on the events pages of
our website (time and staffing
permitting)

Black History Month events

Many Black History Month events have been organised in the Region in October as well as in November.

For further details of local events please contact:

- **Ipswich:** Del Whyte – NIA project, Ipswich, niaproject21@yahoo.com, 01473 221715
- **Norfolk:** Sean Whyte – NNREC, Norwich, sean.whyte@nnrec.org.uk, 01603 611644; Finbarr Carter, finbarr@nead.org.uk, 01603 610993; www.norfolkblackhistorymonth.org.uk
- **Peterborough:** Peggie Price – Peterborough City Council, peggie.price@peterborough.gov.uk
- **Cambridge:** Patrica Lashley – Momentum Arts, Cambridge, patricia@momentumarts.org.uk, 01223 500202
- **Essex:** Jonathan Wicks, Essex Libraries, jonathan.wicks@essexcc.gov.uk, 01245 144951
- **Bedford:** The Rev'd Jay MacLeod, Parish Priest of All Saints, Bedford, macasher@dial.pipex.com

Saturday 5th November, London

Unite Against Fascism National Conference

This year the BNP saved their deposits in 34 constituencies in the general election, compared to only 5 in 2001. In 2004 the BNP missed getting elected to the London Assembly and European Parliament by a hair's breadth. The BNP currently has 21 local councillors. Where they have council seats, incidents of racism and homophobia have risen.

If the BNP's vote trend continues upwards they will be on course to make a national breakthrough. However the BNP can be stopped if we mount the biggest possible campaign against them. The next step will be stopping them gaining more council seats next year. Campaigning has raised awareness and denied the BNP breakthroughs in some of their key target areas. In Oldham having received their highest vote in 2001, the BNP suffered their biggest setbacks in the 2005 general election.

Unite Against Fascism is organising this conference to discuss why the BNP's vote has grown, the effective strategies in stopping the BNP and to bring together the different sections of the anti-fascist movement including the trade unions, Muslim, Jewish, Christian and other faith, black, Asian, lesbian and gay communities and disabled peoples' organisations. Speakers include: Ken Livingstone, Margaret Hodge MP, Billy Hayes *CWU General Secretary*, Sir Iqbal Sacranie *Muslim Council of Britain*, Mick Connolly *SERTUC Regional Secretary*, Kat Fletcher *NUS President*, Henry Guterman *MBE Holocaust Survivor*, Keith Saonnet *UNISON Deputy General Secretary* and Ben Summerskill *Stonewall Chief Executive*

A booking form is available from:

http://www.blink.org.uk/docs/uaf2005_book.pdf or tel. 020 7582 1990.