

## BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY

# Women and unions crucial in exposing the real BNP

THERE appears to be much controversy over the BNP lately and with so many headlines and column inches devoted to the why's and how's of this supposed political group I got to thinking ... why? who does it benefit? ... and how?

It appears to suit the media, and political organisations like the BNP, to concentrate on and sensationalise certain issues. Recently, for example, the issue of asylum has been quite prolific.

It is used as a smokescreen to hide the broader political and social agendas of bigotry, racism and fascism. It has also caused a welcome diversion from the real human rights issues and politics facing us today and of course, controversy sells newspapers.

I think the role of women in this debate is crucial. Trade union women are well placed to expose the real agenda of the BNP.

As mothers, workers, carers, low wage earners and often the recipients of unequal treatment ourselves, we are armed to recognise, organise and combat these forces of evil.

Those forces, if they were in power, would in fact take any measures to oppress women. But they would happily court our vote under manifesto promises of reaping huge benefits to us, our families and our country. Even using us as the 'moderate' faces, knocking 'door to door' assuring the electorate that the BNP is the way to go to benefit our country and our future.

Also, why is it that a large number of BNP councillors have publicly and spectacularly ditched the party after learning the real truth about its fascist roots?

A highly publicised example of this was BNP Councillor Maureen Stowe of Burnley, who was elected in 2003. Councillor Stowe claims she didn't know the real nature of



**Vicky Knight, EC member for women, looks at the the British National Party's policies and finds nothing to benefit women or anyone else she knows**

BNP policies when she was elected but now stands as an Independent and brands the BNP as 'a disgrace'.

I spent an hour or two researching the BNP and its policies. I couldn't seem to find one issue, programme or policy that could vaguely benefit my life or the lives of anyone around me.

It was a step back in time, I had entered a Dickensian novel. White is pure. Straight is pure. Men who are straight and white are particularly pure ... you can see the theme! Sexist, racist, homophobic, xenophobic and any other negative label you could think to attach.

Nothing positive and dynamic on the issues of health and welfare, housing or education, war and the international issues facing us today and in the future. Nothing highlighting fiscal policy, tax, violence, public services or in fact anything

vaguely political. The double standards amidst the ignorance of this organisation are unbelievable to say the least.

Here's a taster of the cutting edge thoughts and issues facing the BNP today: They promise to reinstate capital punishment for 'premeditated' murder. They wish to 'resettle' any minority ethnic people in Britain back to their homelands, regardless of whether those same minority ethnic people are British or not.

They wish to cancel the Good Friday agreement and the Anglo-Irish agreement, declaring all Ireland British (bearing in mind their previous policies on the issue of other people doing the same to them!).

According to the BNP, abortion is nothing short of nationwide profit-driven baby killing, except in certain circumstances where then it becomes totally acceptable, for example if there is a possibility of a disability of the child. Why?

Steve Biko once said: 'The most potent thing in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed'. This saying sums up the brainwashing and sectarian tactics used by organisations like the BNP.

It proves that by asking questions and looking beyond what is given to us as fact and seeking what is truth, every single one of us can make informed choices and make a positive difference without someone's 'spin' which after all, is only trying to make us think one thing when the fact is quite clearly another.

Who can racism, sexism or homophobia benefit in our society? Certainly not the electorate when 23% of us are gay, 51% of us are women and the ethnic minority population is growing by the day but is currently 5 million or 8%.

All it does is prey on every one of our 'isms' and ensures that by division we are all ruled.