

# **SUPPORT THE BRADFORD 12**

Sisters,

We'd like you to know about the campaign to free the Bradford 12.

In July 1981, dawn raids were carried out on Bradford's black community resulting in the arrest of 12 Asian Youth. They face trial at Leeds Crown Court on April 26th on charges of Conspiracy. All will plead NOT Guilty to all the charges but if convicted could be sentenced to Life Imprisonment.

Many of the Bradford 12 were members of a radical organisation called the United Black Youth League. This has consistently presented a threat to the State by its successful record in fighting racist immigration laws, and against police and fascist harassment. Some of them were involved in Anwar Ditta's successful five year campaign to be reunited with her children. They also supported Nasira Begum, Jaswinder Kaur and many others in their struggle against deportation. Some have also supported women's protests like the action to keep the Bradford battered women's refuge open, abortion struggles, and have given support to the gay community. The Conspiracy charges relate to the previous political activity of the 12.

It is no crime to organise, to meet and to discuss. The implication of this form of repression reaches everyone who has ever gone to a political meeting. Conspiracy laws can be used against any group of people. Angry women could be rounded up, questioned about the involvement of their friends and charged.

Black women suffer enough indignities at the hands of the State – eg. virginity tests, racist and sexist immigration laws.

Many women's groups have given their support to anti-deportation campaigns for Nasira Begum, Jaswinder Kaur, Mumtas Kiani etc. We have opposed the Home Office decisions to criminalise black women whose marital status has changed. Such campaigns expose State racism, State sexism and spread awareness of how this country treats black people. Rights have only been won by massive political campaigns which put pressure on the State to reverse its decisions. It is necessary for women to join the fight against the abuse of State power.

The Bradford 12, after 3 months in jail, were released on bail conditions like South Africa-style house arrest, and effectively banished from their own community and its support. However, this overt act of repression has since been implicitly conceded to be inadmissible by Leeds Crown Court on 6 December 1981, when it converted the earlier comprehensive ban into one which excludes the defendants from only those public meetings which concern their defence. Nevertheless, the new ruling continues to maintain political conditions of bail that go beyond normal subjudice rules, and infringe the fundamental human rights of freedom of speech, movement and association. Our silence only reinforces their chains. Our silence implies that we accept without criticism the way the Imperialist British State (which has been and is being built on enslaved, exploited and tortured nations) will stop at NOTHING to criminalise black people and/or people who threaten the balance of power in Britain. The July uprisings were crushed by an unprecedented abuse of police and judicial powers and paramilitary attacks on the black community.

This trial is in Leeds because the police wouldn't dare hold it in Bradford. They hope there will be less noise, less protest and less pressure there. Let's prove them wrong.

ONLY A MASSIVE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN WILL FREE THE BRADFORD 12. Join it.  
We urge you to attend and support the:

**MASS PICKET on April 26 of Leeds Crown Court**  
**LONDON RALLY on April 23 at the Polytechnic of Central**  
**London, 115 New Cavendish St at 7.30.**