

Never has there been so great a need for Black Socialists around the country to combine, coordinate and develop their work as now.

The black community is facing a two-pronged attack upon its existence; firstly, through racist immigration laws and through the relentless attacks by racist police/prison officers and other thugs who seem to have legal impunity from prosecution; and secondly, from a class position where we are taking the brunt of the capitalist's crisis measures in the form of increased unemployment and reductions in social and welfare services.

The State through this process is legitimising the black community as a second class thus fuelling a latent fascist ideology which turns the white working class against the black community. This scape-goating diverts attention from the real source of the crisis (i.e. capitalism) and undermines the foundations of any united working class consciousness against injustice and exploitation. This scenario also provides an opportunity for the State to easily introduce authoritarian measures designed to contain rebellions and rank and file discontent engendered by the crisis.

Black defence campaigns which highlight the violent reality of black peoples' daily experiences are an intrinsic part of this broader struggle against capitalism. Consequently, we recognise the importance of campaigns as part of a continuous fight against oppression and injustice, and their need to raise, support and finance. Black Socialist Network aims to provide a national circuit which will allow campaigns to take the issue not only to the black community but also to the trade unions, labour movement, socialist/progressive and other groups.

This broadening out of the struggle will incorporate the fight against racism not only amongst the mass of the white working class but also amongst socialist and trade union groupings. We have passed through a long and bitter history with the traditional "White-left" organisations towards whom we should not adopt a sectarian attitude but rather develop a strategy that will counteract their short-sighted and racist attitudes.

It is from attempting to understand the race and class exploitation of the black community within the framework of the struggle against the State and capitalism that we intend to develop black liberation and anti-racist, anti-fascist work.

SOME AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF B.S.N.

1. To develop a network of Black Socialists around the country.
2. Provide a forum where we can share and learn from our work within the trade union/Labour movement and campaigns.
3. Build a national circuit that will help campaigns to raise public and financial support.
4. Enable Black Socialists to formulate and co-ordinate a principled national fight against racism and fascism.
5. To link our struggle in this country with all anti-imperialist struggles in the third world and elsewhere, especially in the north of Ireland.