

Independent Black Network:

Handsworth Birmingham: 2nd June 1985

Report Back

The network was well attended despite the late announcement and lack of administration. The Education on South Africa was postponed (the UDF were not available).

An agenda was drawn up for which I proposed that the priority should be given to the Sheffield proposal of the last meeting, on the question of the network itself since a great deal of discussion has been done on it.

Having stated the proposal again (that the network should be open to individuals and organisations (Black) on the platform of anti-racist campaigns - in order to construct a solid and concrete base which will bring the various members together. Although there was no concrete alternatives from the lengthy debate, the proposal was defeated at the vote. Having stressed again that the network was in danger of isolating its members the urgency to draw up a short-termed constitution was realized. The constitution (Aims + objectives) looks flimsy and inadequate in its present state but a major development to it was that the whole of the Sheffield proposal was incorporated in it. The brief constitution reads:

Name: Independent Black Network

Constitution of IBN established by black people to work with and mobilize Black people in Britain.

Objective:

- to support and campaign against ^{racism and} the oppression of Black people
- to support and campaign against the oppression of Black women.
- to build solidarity amongst Black people in Britain.
- to support the genuine liberation struggles
- to build a platform of activity controlled by black people for black people.

membership

Open to all Black people who agree with aims of the network.

Management

- A national committee with people from

- South
- Midlands
- North.

- The three regions will be the sub areas of the network to mobilize black people in their area.

- the technicalities such as:
- : question of (and definition of) 'Black'.
- : The mobilization of Youth.
- : what about progressive (white) movements?
- : The question of class.
- : Discipline

Further discussion ^{on these} will take place at the next Network.

Discussion of Newham 7 was led by Carol. She stressed about the pickets at the courts (two) and announced the week of action 13th June - 20th June. The Petitions are to be collected and sent to Newham. Important contributions to the campaign were made:

- to write to the ~~Home~~ Judge
(Court 2, old Bailey, London EC4)
- a national Picket on 17th at the courts (apparently it falls on the same date as the picket of the deportation case of Shahid Syed at the high court, Strand) & network agreed to mobilize people in their areas for the two pickets.
- Printing a Bulletin every fortnight.
- Sheffield volunteered on the basis that the Newham ~~new~~ 7 campaign send in a written document + foot the bill for paper + ink etc.

Grievances were felt at the way Southall administered the meeting + minutes etc. Hence a coordinator ~~and~~ Secretary has been appointed: Bhupri (Birmingham) who would relay info + organize the next meeting. & talked on South Africa: The successful picket in Wembley and the possibility of organizing a bigger one in Birmingham when Jagjit Singh + Chitra Singh appear there. Birmingham have ~~also~~ agreed to coordinate with me.

Also - ring Eastern Eye (Jaswinder Buncil: 2613206) to voice your 'displeasure' of them invited J.E.C. Singh. Network ~~members~~ ^{members} have promised to send in some articles for Kalé mazdoor.

Next meeting: 7th July 1985. Coventry/Birmingham 11:00pm

U.M.