

MUHAMMAD IDRISH Defence Campaign

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Dear Brother/Sister

We are writing to seek your support for a national demonstration in Birmingham, on 8th October, in support of Muhammad Idrish, a Bangladeshi social worker threatened with deportation by the Home Office. This demonstration is being organised by NALGO who have pledged their full support for Muhammad's right to stay in this country, including organising a national day of action in the event of a deportation order being served. Muhammad, a NALGO member, has been involved in community work with the Bengali and other Asian communities in this country. Further details are given in the leaflets enclosed, but his "offence" is that he is separated from his wife although they are not divorced. Because of this the Home Office have refused him leave to stay in the U.K. under the 1971 Immigration Act.

Such legislation, introduced both by Labour and Tory governments since the early 60s, deny black people full rights in this country. About 250 people are deported or leave as result of these racist laws. Muhammad's case illustrates the present governments attack on black and white workers, particularly those active in the unions and community. Such cases must be taken up in an active way by the Labour Movement as part of the struggle against these laws.

As you will see below, the campaign has been successful in building substantial support within the Labour Movement and various black organisations. Successful public meetings and pickets have been held which have aroused a great deal of public support and media coverage. There is however, an urgent need to step up the campaign as appeals against the decision of the Home Office have met with no success so far.

We are therefore asking your organisation to support the campaign in the following ways:

1. Support the national demonstration on 8th October (detailed information available later from address above or NALGO)
2. Affiliate to the campaign (£5 organisations, £1 individuals), send donations and delegate to campaign meetings - every Wednesday at the Shaheed Udham Singh Centre, Soho Rd, Handsworth, 7.30pm.
3. Write a letter of protest to the Home Secretary, your M.P. councillor and the press.
4. Pass motions in your Union/Labour Party, (model motions overleaf) and send copies to the press, and Home Secretary.
5. Support future activities of the campaign - demonstrations etc..

Supporters include

NALGO- General Secretary, NEC, West Midlands and London Metropolitan Districts, Dr Barnardo's, Birmingham City, Walsall Borough, Wolverhampton, West Midlands County Council, University of Warwick, Oxfordshire, Manchester Health, Islington, Nottingham, Sandwell Branches. NUPE B'ham Social Services. NULMW. ASTMS B'ham City and MPU West Midlands. NATFHE B'ham Poly and West Midlands Region. FBU No 7 Region. B'ham, Bristol, Wolverhampton and Walsall Trades Councils. Edgebaston, Ladywood, Selly Oak and Wolverhampton South West CLP's B'ham, and Sandwell CARF. Bangladeshi and Indian Workers Associations. British Council of Churches. Sheffield and Rotherham City Councils and West Midlands County

Model Motion for Trade Unions/Labour Parties

This branch supports the campaign to defend Muhammad Idrish, a Bangladeshi social worker and NALGO member, who is threatened with deportation for the 'offence' of being separated from his wife.

We recognise that he is only one of the many victims of the immigration laws introduced by both Labour and Tory governments since the early 1960's.

These laws are used mainly against black people from Britain's ex-colonies and are part of the legal procedures used to prevent them from playing an active part in the Labour and Trade Union Movement.

We resolve to:

1. Support the national demonstration in support of Muhammad Idrish, called by NALGO, to be held in Birmingham on October 8th.
2. Organise coaches to the demonstration (with free transport for the unemployed)
3. Write to the Home Office and local MPs on Brother Idrish's behalf.
4. Affiliate to the Muhammad Idrish Defence Campaign, send a delegate to its meetings, and make a donation to its funds.
5. To call on our National Executive to support the demonstration officially and campaign for the largest possible attendance.
6. (Labour Parties)

We call on the Labour front bench to raise the issue in Parliament as part of the party's opposition to the 1971 Immigration Act.

(Trade Unions)

We further call on our National Executive to block all work associated with the possible deportation of Brother Idrish.

NALGO Branches

This branch fully endorses emergency resolution SO3 passed National Conference supporting Brother Idrish, a Bangladeshi social worker and NALGO member, who is threatened with deportation for the 'offence' of being separated from his wife.

We recognise that he is only one of the many victims of the immigration laws introduced by both Labour and Tory governments since the early 1960s. These laws are used mainly against black people from Britain's ex-colonies and are part of the legal procedures used to prevent them from playing an active part in the Trade Union and Labour Movement.

We resolve to:

1. Organise coaches to the National Demonstration in support of Brother Idrish called by NALGO, to be held in Birmingham on October 8th.
2. Liaise with the District Council and with other branches in this area to campaign for the largest possible attendance at the demonstration, going beyond the ranks of NALGO members and making provision for free transport of the unemployed.
3. Write to the Home Office and to local MPs on Brother Idrish's behalf.
4. Affiliate to the Muhammad Idrish Defence Campaign, send a delegate to its meetings and make a donation to its funds.