

STAND UP TO UKIP LAUNCH STATEMENT



The 2014 European Elections mark a watershed in British politics. UKIP is a right wing, racist, populist party which won over 27 percent of the vote; a staggering 4,352,051 people voted for them and they beat the three mainstream parties.

Ukip presents itself as an anti-establishment party and its leader, Nigel Farage, claims to be “a man of the people”. This is a lie. Ukip wants to introduce a flat rate of income tax of 31 per cent that means those on the starting and basic rate, will face huge tax increases. Ukip’s deputy leader called for the privatisation of the NHS.

It has built up its electoral base by both presenting itself as a party opposed to the European Union, but more importantly by spreading poisonous lies and hatred towards migrants and Muslims.

We believe Ukip is a racist party. This may be something Farage and the party’s leadership is quick to deny. But in the run up to the European elections Ukip’s mask slipped. Ukip presents the anti-racist movement with a major problem—dragging British politics to the right.

Ukip is also a party of bigots, sexists, Islamophobes, homophobes and people prejudiced against disabled people.

The rise of Ukip has parallels with other far right and fascist parties, which are

growing across Europe.

In France the fascist Front National gained the biggest overall vote in the French European Elections. The PVV in the Netherlands, another racist populist party, came third and in Hungary the fascist Jobbik party came second.

Ukip received disproportionate media coverage prior to the elections and any party that received this level of coverage would have benefited at the polls. Although UKIP received a high vote, 65 percent of the population did not vote.

The mainstream political parties must do more to engage these people and not chase the Ukip vote to avoid the danger of racism being normalised in British society.

Now is the time to make a stand against Ukip.

The lesson of history is that we need unity against the far right and racism. Stand up to Ukip is an umbrella organisation which believes women, trade unions, anti-racists, black, Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, other faith communities, LGBT, young people, disabled people, students and all good people, must unite and stand up to Ukip, racism and bigotry.

Please join us.

Your name may appear as a signatory when we use this statement in the press.

Diane Abbott MP

Len McCluskey Unite general secretary

Ken Livingstone London mayor, 2000-08

Owen Jones writer and journalist

Sally Hunt UCU general secretary

Manuel Cortes TSSA general secretary

Ava Vidal comedian

Gerry Gable editor and publisher, *Searchlight* magazine

Gareth Peirce solicitor and campaigner

Hugh Lanning

Unite Against Fascism vice chair

Lindsey German

Stop the War Coalition convenor

Leon Silver

East London Central Synagogue, president

Disabled People Against Cuts

Jim Board

Doncaster Unison branch secretary (pc)

Jo Cardwell We Are Waltham Forest

Denis Fernando

Rainbow Coalition Against Racism

Sean Hoyle Wessex Region RMT president

Karen Reissmann Unison executive (pc)

Ronnie Draper BFAWU general secretary

Ricky Tomlinson

Shrewsbury 24 campaign and actor

Will Scobie Labour Councillor, Thanet

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Name	Union	Postcode	Email/phone	Union position

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