

A year in Nottingham of Standing Up To Racism 2022/2023

Just some events....

From our discussion at the start of our Nottingham Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) AGM on 15th Nov 2022.....

- Suella Braverman's views & comments & support needed for asylum seekers

We started the meeting with a discussion about the current situation of asylum seekers in the wake of Suella Braverman's reappointment as Home Secretary and the continuing attack by the government as a whole on those having to cross the channel as the only way for most to claim asylum.

In particular Karam described the situation locally at two hotels recently made available to asylum seekers near Junction 25 on the M1. The Parish Council had held a meeting with local residents which unfortunately had only increased tensions and prompted the 'Patriotic Alliance' to leaflet the area using the cost of living crisis to spread untruths and promote discord. The number of attacks on asylum seekers nationally had dramatically increased as a result of Braverman's comments. Previous to this there had been some toleration of the asylum seekers as one of these hotels had closed and reopened with the prospect of preserving some local jobs, but the attitude of some councillors & the local MP have only provided space for organisations like the Patriotic Alliance to spread their views.

Care4Calais are providing clothing & social support and trying to build a support group in the locality,....

Also in Nov 2022 Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM)

- SUTR were invited to take part at an IAM event organised by Muslim Engagement & Development (MEND) at Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and the Student Union
- On 21st Nov it was announced the Castle, after 18 months of controversy – and failing to tackle racism within its management practises, went into receivership
- SUTR Stop & Search 'Bust Cards' were produced
- We had more of our T-shirts delivered

Dec 2022



We held a minute's silence at the end of the rally for the RMT (Rail, Maritime & Transport) trade union strikers at Nottingham station on Sat 17th Dec 2022 following more drowning in the channel.

- We have had a presence on the many demonstrations in support of striking workers from the summer of 2022 into 2023 to build unity and fight against division
- The High Court ruled in favour of flights to Rwanda on 19th December – but it was appealed..
- Mansfield’s station hotel opens to asylum seekers

Jan 2023

- 16th Jan – Martin Luther King Jr Day event at NTU
- 24th – a number of us join the national SUTR Holocaust Day event on line; there was also one at the University of Nottingham on Thurs 26th. Sadly the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) which had arranged Nottingham community events for Holocaust Day in previous years was no longer able to arrange an event
- 28th – first of a number of protests at St Anns Allotments against racist practices

Feb

- 4th - SUTR and TUC national SUTR & trade unions workplace conference
- Protest/ attack on Midland Hotel in Mansfield by the far right
- 11th - Refugees welcome here event in Mansfield in response to a far right attack on the Station Hotel Mansfield where asylum seekers are housed



- 18th – 2nd protest outside St Anns Allotments

**Saturday 25th February
Counter Protest**

Don't Let the Racists Divide Us!

Please join our peaceful counter protest against far right and racist groups who are targeting refugees staying at the Novotel in Long Eaton.

We need to send a message that
REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE

Assemble 11.00am
Novotel, Bostocks Lane,
Long Eaton
NG10 4EP

Called by Nottingham & Derbyshire
Stand up To Racism and CareCalais



After defending hotels in Long Eaton against far right in the morning we held a...



Welcome event for asylum seekers at Rough Trade 25th Feb



NTU Global week 27th Feb – 3rd March – yet again another popular SUTR stall

March

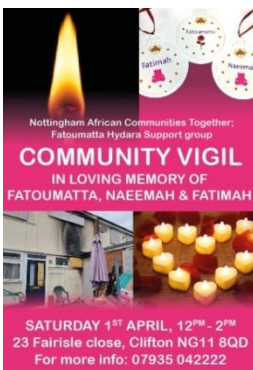


Virtually a full coach for the first time from Nottingham



- 3rd St Anns' allotment protest 25th March

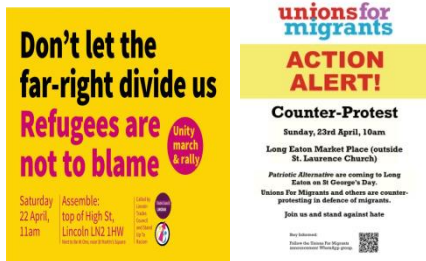
April



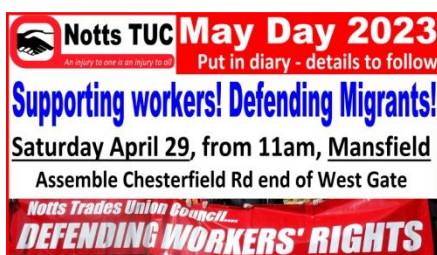
Following the killings in November 22 – the culprit was finally convicted in Sept 23

(A protest had been planned against Home Office minister, Robert Jenrick MP, in Newark had to be postponed – but again on the agenda later in the year...)

- Thurs 20th – Sat 22nd: **New Art Exchange LET’S TALK CONFERENCE** with Conversations exploring the Global Ethnic Majority in and out of the Cultural Sector. The conference addressed the imbalance by exploring key topics through conversations with artists and communities.



Protests in Lincoln on Sat 22nd & in Long Eaton on Sun 23rd against the far right



The annual May Day march purposely held in Mansfield this year to show support for asylum seekers

May

25th May – 3rd anniversary of **George Floyd’s murder** – Again we ‘Took the Knee’ outside the Council House & again there was an online poetry showcase organised by Poets Against Racism & Hate (PARH) USA and Poets Against Racism (PAR) UK – from Nottingham!

June



A couple of car loads of supporters attended this, the biggest regional conference so far



- Thurs 8th June Celebrating the contribution of the Windrush Generation to the UK with speaker Colin Grant. Thanks to Clive Foster at NTU for organising a great event



Mon 12th Supporting asylum seekers attend cricket at Trent Bridge. A combination of groups & people made this possible.

Refugee week events Sat 17th – Sun 25th. Many events to support! From the launch event in Sneiton market, then in particular Brendan Woodhouse’s launch of ‘Doro’ by asylum seeker Doro, sponsored and attended by many co Fire Brigade Union members, and rounded off by Poets against Racism on the Sunday. Also stall at Arnold summer fair on the Saturday whose theme was diversity.



July



Far right heavily outnumbered pleased to report

- 25th following the idea put forward by our Chair, Leroy, at our meeting during Refugee Week in June, our SUTR meeting starts planning for our Breaking Down Racist Barriers in Nottinghamshire event...



29th - Our usual stall at Nottingham Pride & shared with the Unite Nottingham Community branch

August

- 8th first Planning meeting for our Breaking Down Racist Barriers in Nottinghamshire event fixed for 16th Sept.



12th – Convoy from Lincoln to Scampton with FBU fire engine



20th First time we have a stall at Nottingham carnival – shared with the Unite Community branch

September



10th – usual stall at Nottingham Green Festival



More T-shirts ordered and SUTR caps for the first time!

Sept 16th.....

A large event poster for "Breaking Down Racist Barriers in Nottinghamshire". The main title is in large white letters on a pink background. Below it, the date and time are "Saturday 16 September, 12.30 - 5pm". The location is "Hubb (formerly Muslim Community Organisation Centre), Beaumont Street, Nottingham NG2 4PJ". A "STAND UP TO RACISM SPECIAL EVENT" logo is present. The poster is divided into sections: "The purpose of the event" (bringing together anti-racist groups), "The form of the event" (music, poetry, introductions, workshops), and "Speakers" (to be announced). A QR code is provided for registration. A small photo of a group of people is also included.

Please see our summary report of the conference attached with this annual report and those organisations that supported/ participated in the day

Breaking down racist barriers in Nottinghamshire - a great day, supported by many local organisations; with great speakers and performers and over 50 attending. A short video of the day has been made.

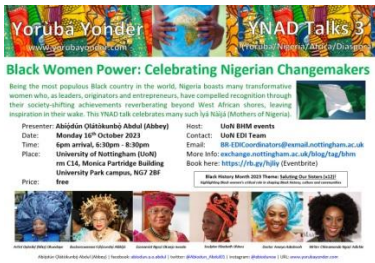


Thulani & Liaqat, Hubb Nottingham Board member. Sheena from the supporting asylum seekers & refugees workshop and music from World Jam c/o

October – Black History Month

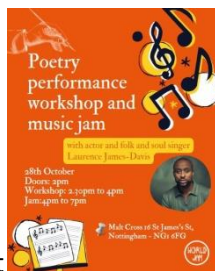


We organised a coach to Manchester...There were a number of events we supported for Black History Month.....here are some.....



Also

at the University of Nottingham & at Broadway



And another World Jam event

at the end of the month

<p style="text-align: center;">ADVICE ON ARREST</p> <p>Say "NO COMMENT" to all police questions during casual chats, 'booking in' & interviews.</p> <p>At the police station you may wish to give your name, address and date of birth to speed your release. For your protection and that of others don't answer further questions.</p> <p>Do NOT accept a CAUTION without advice from a recommended solicitor. This is an admission of responsibility and goes on the police national computer.</p> <p>You have the right to FREE LEGAL ADVICE at the police station.</p> <p>Duty solicitors don't always have experience with protest law, instead ask the police to contact one of the following:</p> <p>Bird & Co (Lincolnshire): 01476 591711/ 07711 627048 (out of hours)</p> <p>Bird & Co (Nottinghamshire): 01536 650880/ 07971 923651 (out of hours)</p> <p>Banner Jones: 01246 560 560 / 07973 225904 (out of hours)</p> <p>You have the right to have someone informed of your arrest (make that the Protest Support Line unless otherwise arranged: 07946 541 511).</p> <p>You have the right to an interpreter if English is not your first language.</p> <p>If you are or appear under 18 an appropriate adult should be called.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STOP AND SEARCH</p> <p>You're not legally required to give your name and address under any stop and search power, see below website for more details. Legally you must be told the reason and the power that you are being searched under.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?</p> <p>Contact Court Support if you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - witness an arrest - want support - have legal questions about protest - have been arrested - have a court date and want support <p style="text-align: center;">courtsupport@protonmail.com 07946 541 511</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREEN AND BLACK CROSS</p> <p>We are Legal Observers, independent volunteers who gather evidence on behalf of protesters and act to counter police intimidation and misbehaviour.</p> <p>Read more about your rights and about protest legislation:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.greenandblackcross.org</p>
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Also produced by Toby this month:

- Resetting the agenda: war breaks out on 7th October between Israel & Gaza & with attacks in & on the West Bank. Braverman and the Tories ramp up the racism, both antisemitism & Islamophobia increase & their actions are purposely are encouraging the far right

November – Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM)

- 8th -Nottingham IAM launch event is held at the Karimia Institute
- 14th – Lincoln event ‘From Windrush to Scampton Oppose the far right’ event
- 15th – Supreme Court upholds the High Court decision NOT to allow asylum seekers to be sent to Rwanda
- (Revived SUTR proposed event in Newark postponed due to many concentrating on calling for a ceasefire in Gaza)
- 19th rescheduled national SUTR conference takes place (see below)

Also scheduled

- 23rd – Nottingham & Notts Refugee Forum (NNRF) AGM
- 25th – Another World Jam event
- 28th – Giving Tuesday organised by NNRF
- 28th – Voices of Hope: NNRF fund raiser at the Nottingham Playhouse
- 28th - A representative from Stand Up To Racism will be attending a myth busting event at the Green Academy
- 1st December – Speaker on IAM at the Notts TUC meeting



TIMETABLE

STAND UP TO RACISM CONFERENCE

10am Registration opens
11-11.30am
Welcoming plenary Daniel Kebede (NEU general secretary) Paul Nowak (TUC general secretary) Sabby Dhalu (Stand Up To Racism co-convenor) Mohammad Kozbar (MCB deputy secretary general) <hr/> Chair: Samira Ali (Stand Up to Racism)
11.30am-12.45pm
Refugees welcome • Stop the scapegoating Don't let them divide us Mark Serwotka (PCS general secretary) Steve Smith (Care4Calais CEO) Pinar Aksu (Refugee and human rights activist) <hr/> Co-chairs: Julie Sherry (Stand Up To Racism national organiser) Lisa Shimmin (Portland Stand Up To Racism)
12.45-1.15pm Lunch break
1.15-2.30pm
How can we stop the rise of the new far right? Aïcha (Collectif Contre L'Islamophobie en Europe) David Rosenberg (Jewish Socialist Group) Cathy Pound (Searchlight) Michael Bradley (Stand Up To Racism national organiser) <hr/> Chair: Nahella Ashraf (Stand Up To Racism North West)
2.30-3.30pm
Fighting institutional racism today In conversation with Neville Lawrence Hosted by Weyman Bennett (Stand Up To Racism co-convenor) <hr/> Followed by panel speakers: Bell Ribeiro-Addy (MP) Aamer Anwar (lawyer for family of Sheku Bayoh) Sukhdev Reel (mother of Ricky Reel & justice campaigner)
3.30-3.45pm
Closing remarks and call to action Weyman Bennett (Stand Up To Racism co-convenor) Kim Johnson (MP)