

Congress 2006

Agenda: Motions and Nominations



18 | Islamophobia and racism

Congress is anxious to counter the growing culture of Islamophobia as another manifestation of racism, which is borne out of a transatlantic agenda for the Middle East and the consequent terrorist atrocities of recent years. In the workplace the impact of this can be corrosive on relationships and it impacts on Asian communities as a whole. Fear and ignorance breeds prejudice and prejudice is undiscerning. Many innocent people suffer as a result. It is every bit as important that we combat racism, fear and prejudice as it is that we combat terrorism.

Congress, therefore, calls upon the General Council to:

- i) encourage affiliated unions to share and promote good practices aimed at countering Islamophobia in the workplace, as part of their anti-racist strategies; and
- ii) use these examples to promote a similar sense of responsibility amongst employers such that a joint approach to this aspect of racism and discrimination may be developed – one that is inclusive and which values racial, religious and cultural diversity.

napo – the Trade Union and Professional Association for Family Court and Probation Staff

Amendment

Insert new second paragraph:

"Congress notes that the fascist BNP made the promotion of Islamophobia a key plank of its election campaign."

Add new sub-paragraph iii):

"iii) continue to support campaigning against the BNP as a priority in the coming year."

Communication Workers' Union

Amendment

Add new sub-paragraph iii):

"iii) ensure Islamophobia and racism plays no part in the sentencing of offenders and is given a zero tolerance in the criminal justice system."

POA

19 | Deportation of children of asylum seekers

Congress is concerned that the processes for deportation of 'failed' asylum seekers do not take into account the needs of the families of asylum seekers and the communities of which they have been a part during their residence in the United Kingdom. Congress is aware of the damaging emotional and psychological effects on children, both those of asylum seekers and those children of UK citizens who have become their friends, brought about by the sudden deportation of asylum seeker families. Congress expresses its concern about the additional psychological demands this process places on children who will already have had significant traumatic experiences prior to their arrival in the United Kingdom. Congress further notes that the deportation of the children of asylum seekers is contrary to the guiding principles of the Government's strategy for children Every Child Matters.

Congress instructs the General Council to investigate further the effects of this experience on children in our communities and to make representation to the Government to ensure that the needs of children and their communities become important criteria in the consideration of requests for residence by asylum seekers and that these are fully taken into account in any decision-making.

Association of Educational Psychologists

20 | Access to Work and the public sector

Congress notes with alarm the proposal to withdraw the Access to Work scheme from public bodies, and calls on the TUC to campaign against this. The scheme provides vital support to disabled people in employment and its withdrawal would certainly add to the unacceptable proportion of disabled people excluded from work. There would be a loss of valuable skills to public bodies and a contradiction with their statutory duty to promote equality would be created.

Congress further notes the incompatibility between this proposal and the Government's professed objective of transferring large numbers of disabled people from dependence on benefits to employment. These inconsistencies demonstrate the increasing gap between the political rhetoric of inclusion and the resources