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Your Ref:- JW
Our Ref:- ATUC Objection
Date:- 10.06.13

Notice of Public Procession:- Scottish Defence League/National Front (SDL/NF)

Opposition thereto by Aberdeen Trades Union Council (ATUC)

I understand the SDL/NF have made application to march in Aberdeen on Saturday 29 June 2013. Aberdeen Trades Union Council (ATUC), is opposed to such an application being made and granted on a number of grounds.

The grounds are that:-

- the SDL's and NF's policies and activities are not conducive or in the interests of or to good public order and that many of its policy's are in clear breach of good practice and legal requirements in terms of Equal Opportunities legislation that ATUC promotes as part of its rules and objectives as a Trades Council. Aberdeen City Council also promotes Equal Opportunities as an employer, but also as an elected public body representing all the citizens of Aberdeen and on behalf of society in general.
- Given the SDL/NF wish to march on the same day as the Armed Forces Day procession in Aberdeen and wish to march down Crown Street to then protest outside a place of peace and worship, it is submitted that this is nothing other than a deliberate provocative act, designed to infuriate those organisations and individuals who use and members who use these premises for that purpose. It is also designed to hide behind the cloak of anonymity which the Armed Forces Day parade would provide, if the SDL/NF march and protest were allowed to proceed.
- The application is wholly inappropriate and not the actions of responsible and truly accountable organisations, that purports to be peaceful and democratic, when they wish to march to and then protest outside a place of peace and worship. This is not a rally, it is a protest designed to incite and instill hatred, bigotry and discrimination in and to all those who

are either part of this so called march and protest or against those who are the subject and target of their actions

- Aberdeen has never tolerated and should not tolerate the presence of the SDL/NF within its boundaries and the city has been, throughout the 20th century, a leading light in upholding the very foundation of true democracy and freedom of speech which does not include allowing the views of the SDL/NF or organisations like them or the same as them to have a platform in Aberdeen for distributing or communicating in any way, their views and beliefs which are nothing less than inappropriate and intolerant, to say the least. This is due to the fact that Aberdeen is now a modern progressive, inclusive multicultural and diverse city which makes everyone, no matter what their origin, ethnicity or religion, welcome to live here and this is not something which the SDL/NF embrace in any way whatsoever.
- It is also a fact that those who are members of the SDL will not even be from Aberdeen; they will transport themselves here, from elsewhere and should be stopped from entering the city, never mind being stopped from marching and protesting
- A similar application as this was made in March 2012 when the NF wished to march on Hitler's Birthday. A precedent was set then by ACC on that occasion, and the same outcome should follow and be upheld on this occasion, by the application being Refused.
- It is also the case that ACC celebrated National Holocaust day this year, as did other organisations within the city, an event which had as its theme, last year as "Speak up, Speak Out" and at its heart the famous Pastor Neimoller poem. Well this is a time to Speak up and Speak out and if ACC allow this march to happen, then it flies in the face of what ACC promoted at this event

I would request, for all the reasons and submissions made above, that the council and that all Councillors in Aberdeen, commit themselves at an early stage to oppose and refuse any marches or assemblies by any organisation that promotes Racist and/or Fascist and Nazi views, whatever banner or name that organisation operates under. It is wholly inappropriate for Aberdeen City with its multicultural, progressive, diverse and inclusive society and citizens to allow that society and citizens to be subjected to these wholly inappropriate views which if they were to be, would run the very grave risk of that multicultural society irretrievably breaking down to the detriment of Aberdeen and its citizens and businesses.

Councillors in Aberdeen celebrated a multicultural and multi faith Church Service this year, which is a further reason to Refuse this application

Another reason for refusing this application is that the presence of the SDL/National Front on the streets of Aberdeen is an affront to all those men and women, from Aberdeen, who fought against Fascism and Dictatorship in Spain from 1936 to 1939 and who fought against Fascism, Dictatorship and Nazism in Europe and North Africa from 1939 to 1945 during WWII. This very proud history is commemorated in Aberdeen in and around the Castlegate, with the newest memorial being the tribute to the Gordon Highlanders, who fought with distinction in that latter conflict referred to, as well as by the memorial plaque that hangs in the Music Hall, dedicated to those who fought and died in the Spanish Civil War, fighting Fascism and all that it stands for in all of its guises.

Accordingly, for all the reasons set out above, the application by the SDL/National Front to gather, march and protest, as per their application should be Refused in its entirety, for the good of the City of Aberdeen and all its Citizens; a city which if it lives up to its proud traditions and history, will not allow the SDL/NF to have a presence in Aberdeen for any marches, rallies, protests or gatherings whatsoever,

[REDACTED]

Signed:- Brian Carroll
President of Aberdeen Trades Union Council
For and on behalf of Aberdeen Trades Union Council and its Delegates
and Affiliates.

[REDACTED]