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Jacqui Wallace
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10 June 2013

Opposition to Public Procession: Scottish Defence League/National Front (SDL/NF)

Dear Ms Wallace,

I understand the Scottish Defence League/National Front have made an application to march in Aberdeen on Saturday 29 June 2013. Whilst I understand that this objection may be received slightly late, I should be grateful if it could be considered by the Licensing Committee.

Aberdeen UCU is opposed to such an application being made and granted on a number of grounds:

- **The organisations' (SDL and NF's) policies and activities are not conducive to, or in the interests of, good public order.** Many of their policies are in clear breach of good practice and Equal Opportunities legislation. Aberdeen City Council promotes Equal Opportunities as an employer. As an elected public body representing all the citizens of Aberdeen and on behalf of society in general, supporting such activity would contravene such policies.
- **The march appears to be a deliberately provocative act designed to intimidate and/or incite certain individuals.** The SDL/NF wish to march on the same day as the Armed Forces Day procession in Aberdeen and intend to march down Crown Street to protest outside a place of peace and worship. The march is designed to hide behind the cloak of anonymity which the Armed Forces Day parade would provide, should it be allowed to proceed.
- **The application is inappropriate and the actions are not those of responsible and truly accountable organisations.** This is not a rally, it is a protest designed to incite and instill hatred, bigotry and discrimination.
- **Aberdeen is a modern, progressive, inclusive, multicultural and diverse city where everyone, regardless of their origin, ethnicity or religion is welcome to live.** This is not something that the SDL or NF embrace in any way. The views of the SDL/NF and organisations like them are wholly unacceptable and should not be tolerated.
- **Members of the SDL who would attend will not be from Aberdeen but are travelling to the city expressly for the purpose of the march and protest.**

A similar application was made in March 2012 when the NF wished to march on Adolf Hitler's birthday. A precedent was set by ACC when that application was refused. I call on you to reach the same decision on this occasion.

On behalf of AUCU, I call on the council and all councilors in Aberdeen to oppose and refuse any marches or assemblies by any organisation that promotes racist and/or fascist/Nazi views, whatever banner or name that organisation operates under. The views and behaviours of the SDL/NF threaten multicultural society and if unchecked will be to the detriment of Aberdeen's reputation, citizens and businesses.

I urge you to refuse the application in its entirety.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Mike McConnell.

Mike McConnell
Aberdeen UCU Branch President