



Hi

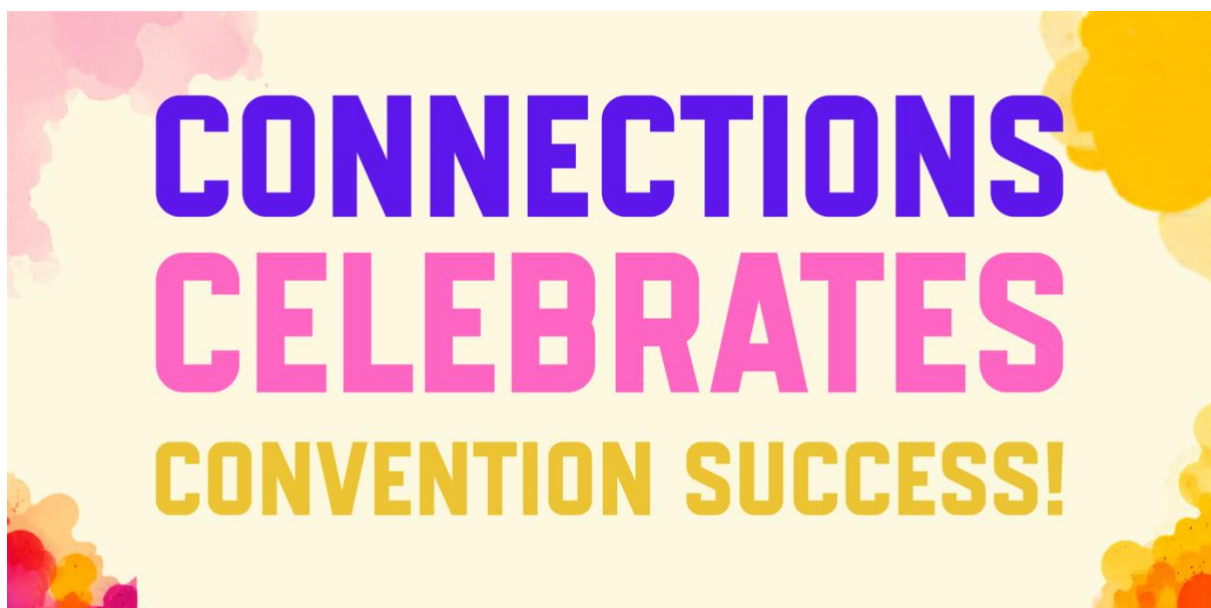
Racist pogroms in our streets. And what is the Labour Government doing? Arguing about how much extra money to spend on defence: spending that will cut even deeper into the services that our communities desperately need.

The Left meanwhile is desperately in search of strategies to halt the advance of the Far Right. It could do worse than to study some of the tactics used by the Communist Party in the 1930s.

The East End Rent Strikes of the Late 1930s

In 1937 two families were to be evicted in Paragon Mansions in London's East End. CP activists learned that both families were members of the BUF (British Union of Fascists), which had no intention of fighting the evictions. Working through the tenants committee, the activists mobilised tenants to come together to defend their neighbours. Bailiffs and police were barred from entry and doused in mouldy flour and water from the balcony over the entrance. Victory soon followed.

Phil Piratin later wrote "The lessons did not require to be pressed home. BUF membership cards were destroyed voluntarily and in disgust ... The kind of people who would never come to our meetings, and had strange ideas about Communists and Jews, learned the facts overnight and learned the real meaning of the class struggle."



Our venue was rich in character and symbolism. SADACCA is both a cultural hub and an organising space serving the many needs of Sheffield's African Caribbean communities and for the benefit of others who wish to use it. It was born from decades of struggle during which this marginalised community took over a derelict building and created their own space.

Around 130 people made it to Sheffield, with a few also participating virtually in the plenary sessions, after our amazing volunteers made it possible to set up an online link. The SADACCA staff were very helpful and made us feel at home. Anwarul Khan set the tone for the day. Connections supports groups trying to self-organise, but doesn't dictate to them what direction they should take. The aim is to create spaces where people can listen, and learn from one another.

The event organising team had come up with a busy but balanced schedule which included opportunities for learning, networking, and political discussion. As well as brief contributions from platform speakers, there was ample time for open discussion in the main plenaries.



At the closing plenary a draft statement was debated which had been drawn up by the organising team. The statement, while critical of the YP leadership, sought to build bridges between the different tendencies represented in Sheffield: those wanting to hold on to their YP membership and fight within the Party for change, those like Andrew Feinstein (speaking by video call) who advocated taking a step back and focusing on local base building, those attracted to the idea of a Federation, and those adamant that nothing less than another new Party could meet the needs of the situation that we're in.

Thus, the statement talked about continuing to build Connections as a pluralist network, strengthening local organisation, and organising an all-Britain conference of groups and organisations "interested in playing a role in developing working class political representation".

The organising team had invited participants to submit amendments to the statement, but the amendment debates only served to create confusion. The main purpose of the statement was as a temperature check, and it was clear from the discussion and the vote that most attendees were very much on board with it.



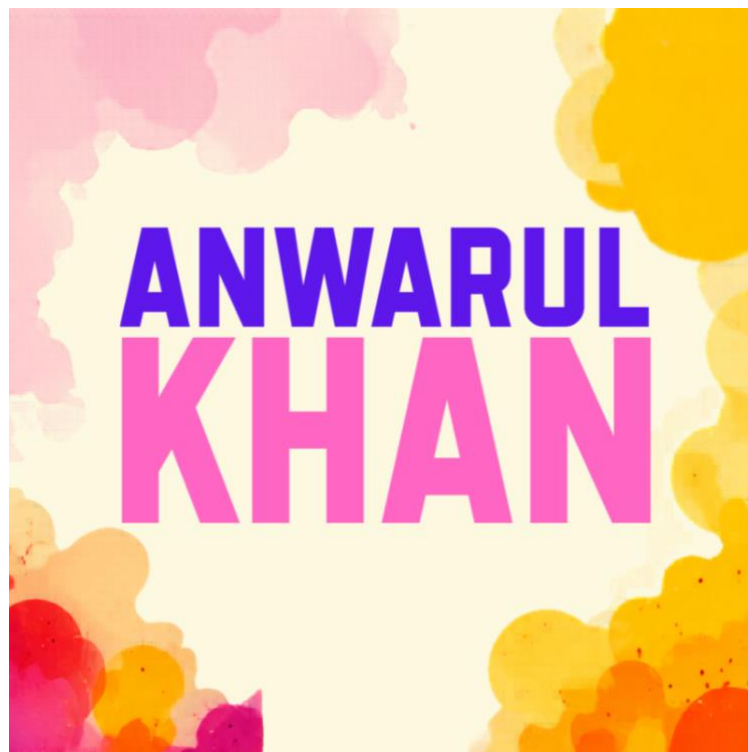
I want to say a MASSIVE thank you to everyone involved. It was such a positive, wonderful day.

The Convention was just a breath of fresh air: 7 or so hours of talking, listening and learning with like-minded individuals who we don't always find in our everyday lives or spaces.

In regard to the voting, I abstained a lot of the amendments that were added at the last minute. They were wordy and hard to assimilate verbally, and the screen was getting whited out by the sun. So it was the only decision I could make when asked. I think these are things to learn from and how to structure things differently in future.



Anyway, I just want to reiterate how wonderful it was meeting you all. In my head you are all the rock stars of socialism, and I was in awe of being able to talk to the amazing people behind the screens we see every week.



We had a meeting with lots of differing views. No one took chunks out of each other. We did workshops that people enjoyed. We had lovely food and got make new connections.

(That's what the network is about!)

Reflections on the Convention

It felt good, as Gayle says, to connect with one another in the flesh. And as Anwarul says, it felt like we were in a space where differing views could be safely expressed without coming to blows. As it happens, there was broad agreement on a lot of things. No one disputes that participation and engagement in proto branches has been declining. And most would agree that the actions of the YP leadership have had a damaging effect on our combativity as a party and as a movement. At the same time, we recognise that the crises facing our class are too serious for us to do anything other than to remain active and keep up the struggle.



From Connections Member Carol Mills

After a promising start, the divisive, factional nature of Your Party soon began impacting Eastbourne effectively placing a pause on our developing into a functional, albeit informal, branch.

There are a few Eastbourne Party members who are in a strictly waiting mode having indicated that it will ONLY BE once a formal Eastbourne Your Party Branch is established that they will become active.

Those of us who are dissatisfied with YP have gone in their own directions by :-



☐ Deciding not to join Your Party after all



☐ Joining the Green Party



☐ Leaving Your Party whilst remaining in their 'banned' Party



☐ Are in the process of cancelling their membership



☐ Are just plain bored and fed up with the lot of us!

But despite all this, a small social media admin team has been active at a regional level - with Collective Action Brighton, and also at a national level with Connections Network.

Now, here is the good bit.

After local discussions and discussions with Connections Network, we have now, on 26th May, launched **Connections Network Eastbourne** as our local “socialist media”. So far our platforms include:- a [Facebook Page](#), a Facebook Group and an [Instagram account](#). Perhaps TikTok is next (?)

Our Social Media accounts have been rebranded from the **Eastbourne Your Party Proto Branch** media accounts. This action was taken because we value Connections' inclusive, respectful, grassroots democratic and transparent approach. Your Party just wasn't meeting these values.

Eastbourne will benefit by having a dedicated socialist media space for the town's various socialists, be they Your Party members, or in one of the "banned" groups or Parties, or in NO Party at all. And by placing our new socialist media along with **Connections Network**, we seek to continue working with the many activists we have met during our **Your Party** experience... so all will not be lost.

Please support our platforms if you are able by liking, following, commenting and sharing.



Here's what some of our members are up to, combatting the far right!

CARNIVAL AGAINST FASCISM
SAT 13 JUN 11 AM
QUEENS RD BRIGHTON
THE MARCH OF THE FAR RIGHT ENDS HERE

JOIN US ON THE STREETS
EVERYONE WELCOME

RACISTS PLAN TO MARCH IN OUR CITY
WE WONT LET THEM!

LOVE WALTON
 OUR COMMUNITY • OUR HOME • OUR FUTURE

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

UNITY OVER DIVISION

JOIN US **SATURDAY 11.30AM** **BOTTOM OF CARRISBROOKE ROAD OPPOSITE SPELLOW LANE**

OUR COMMUNITY HAS EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY.
 For years we have faced poverty, cuts, rising costs, declining services and a lack of investment. People feel ignored, unheard and let down by those in power. **THOSE CONCERNS ARE REAL.**

BUT OUR ANGER MUST BE DIRECTED AT THE CAUSES OF THOSE PROBLEMS. NOT AT OUR NEIGHBOURS.
 Many people who have come here in recent years were recruited to fill vital roles in our NHS, care sector, transport, prisons and other essential services. The pressures facing our communities were not created by working people trying to build a life. They are the result of years of political failure, underinvestment and economic decisions that have left places like ours behind.

WE KNOW OUR NEIGHBOURS.
 We know who stands with our community. And we know who only pretends to create a united front before disappearing again.

WE REJECT DIVISION.

WALTON IS BETTER THAN THAT.

WE WILL NOT STAND BY while genuine hardship and frustration are exploited to spread division, fear and hostility.

OUR CHILDREN should not have to witness intimidation on their streets.

OUR ELDERLY RESIDENTS should not feel afraid to leave their homes.

OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES should not have to fear attack.

OUR COMMUNITY should not have to endure outsiders arriving to create fear, division and division before disappearing again.

WE STAND FOR:

UNITY OVER DIVISION **HOPE OVER FEAR** **SOLIDARITY OVER HATRED**

THIS SATURDAY WE WILL SHOW THAT OUR COMMUNITY WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED, WILL NOT BE DIVIDED AND WILL NOT BE USED AS A PLATFORM FOR THOSE SEEKING TO SPREAD FEAR AND HOSTILITY.

STAND WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS. **STAND WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.** **STAND AGAINST DIVISION.**

UNITE TO STOP

REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE **THE FAR RIGHT**

Saturday 13th June
11 AM / Newcastle City Centre

NO TO RACISM! NO TO HATE!

Saturday 13 June, 1pm,
Buchanan Steps

STAND UP TO RACISM GLASGOW

RECLAIM OUR STREETS
NO TO THE FAR RIGHT

Supported by:

stue **GLASGOW DISTRICT TRADES COUNCIL** **RMT**

AFRICAN COMMUNITY CENTRE **SPRINGBURN ONLY LOVE** **PASS THE MIC**

Disappearing Communities Welcome Refugees **Refugees (ref-u-wee-gee)** **UNITED KINGDOM**

UCU **PCS** **GLASGOW** **GLASGOW** **SISTERS AGAINST RACISM**

WOMEN AGAINST THE FAR RIGHT SCOTLAND **PAISLEY FOR ALL** **POSITIVE ACTION IN HOUSING** **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**



DEFEND MIGRANTS
STOP THE FAR RIGHT
FOR SOLIDARITY NOT RACISM

Counter-demo at Sheffield Town Hall Saturday June 13 11.30am. Join the WhatsApp broadcast chat for updates:

PRODUCED BY THE SHEFFIELD ANTI-RACIST ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE

Unite to Stop BRITAIN FIRST

FASCISTS NOT WELCOME IN BRUM!

SATURDAY 20 JUNE
11AM VICTORIA SQUARE

Your Party CEC updates

The first three official YP branches were formed last weekend: in Ceredigion Penfro, South Scotland, and the Isle of Wight. Darren Galpin [reports](#) that around 30 of 113 registered members attended the founding Isle of Wight meeting, including a few on Zoom, having already elected officers in advance of the event. Jeremy Corbyn gave a message of support by live link. In place of any formal agenda, members took part in assembly-type discussions.

[According to the website](#) (which lists 18 other locations where branches will be formed by the end of July):

“We’re doing politics differently—and that includes how Your Party’s branches will operate. These won’t be branches in the old familiar model. Many people have too much experience of torturous branch meetings that turn into endless arguments between a few key players over the wording of motions, with little impact on the world outside. It drains the life out of you.

Your Party branches will be hubs for community organising, supporting the campaigns and struggles already happening on the ground where you live. Whether that’s industrial action, housing campaigns, Palestine solidarity, or fighting the far right, Your Party branches will amplify and support that work.

We need branches that prioritise participation and inclusion over conflict and factionalism; that face outwards and are defined by their campaigning and solidarity—not by their internal administration.”

The rationale then is that traditional ways of doing politics may be food and drink for activists, but leave many ordinary members feeling excluded. This is controversial to say the least: many are asking how it empowers members when national officers impose (without consultation or democratic mandate) a model of how branches should operate and what their campaigning priorities should be. Time will tell whether branches are given the opportunity to exercise greater autonomy.

YP members may also be interested to learn that the CEC agreed on Sunday that for the time being at least, branches won’t receive any money or have any direct control over funds, which will have to be claimed from the national party.

In her latest CEC report, YP Chair Jenn Forbes strikes a positive note: “Official branches are forming; a summer programme of activity is planned; we’ve got policy commissions coming up.” This may be less than reassuring to many members who in the long months since YP was founded haven’t been consulted, haven’t been given any opportunity to take part in local activity, and haven’t been invited to meetings of any kind other than CEC hustings.

One such member is Carmen Williams: “We need not only more frequent communications; not just reporting on what the CEC members have been doing... What is urgently needed, in my opinion, is to actually ask us, members of this party, to involve us, directly, in shaping the ongoing development of the party. When this state of affairs is presented as the democracy we should all be happy with, even grateful for, is there any wonder that people feel disappointed, disaffected and, many, downright giving up on the very idea of YP?”



Do you want to join Connections Network? We have news!

Membership is no longer restricted to delegates from affiliated groups. If you're an activist/organiser who would like to be part of our comradely network with our WhatsApp community, please email media@connections-network.com.

Local Groups, we want to hear from you!

If you can think of any training, guidance or resources that would be useful, get in touch with us, and we'll see what we can do.

Over & Out!

Connections Media Team