



‘United Strength is Stronger’

PARINS anti-racism Declaration

Partnership Approach to Racial Incidents in North Staffordshire

In April 2005 the Sentinel spear-headed a campaign asking the public to sign a declaration supporting everyone’s right to live in a just society where racial, religious and cultural differences can exist in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Over 3000 signatures were obtained.

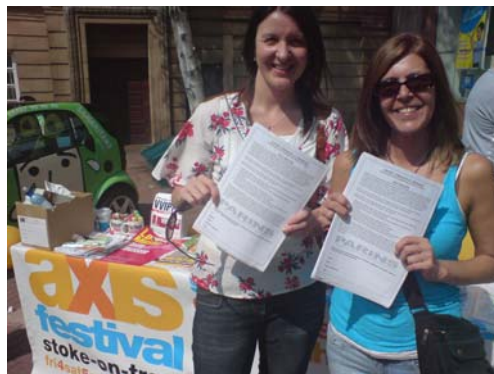
Obtaining signatures found renewed impetus following the failed bomb attack at Glasgow Airport on 30 June 2007 and the arrest of three doctors, one of whom worked at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire. The Sentinel renewed its commitment to the campaign to:

- Help make PARINS more widely known so that victims of racism are encouraged to report racist incidents
- Show their support for victims who need no longer believe that they must suffer in silence.
- Demonstrate solidarity with all those who suffer racism and abuse
- Help PARINS create a groundswell of public opinion which affirms the right of every individual to be treated equally and fairly.

Anyone wishing to sign was invited to do so online on www.parins.org or www.thisisthesentinel.co.uk/harmony or to contact the PARINS project officer, Theresa, on 01782-407947 or call in at Equality House in Raymond Street, Hanley.

The North Staffordshire Racial Equality Council mailed the declaration to members of their network. David Bailey (Staffordshire Police) launched a young people’s version at a local high school. The declaration was promoted through a variety of voluntary sector networks and by Saltbox. Sixteen resident associations signed and the declaration was placed on Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Newcastle Borough Council intranet. There is still a lot more to do and a long way to go.

Project Officer, Theresa Kirkham and Training Officer, Jan Hunt, took to the streets on 28 April and gathered signatures in Fountain Square in Hanley.



The declaration was signed and supported by the stars of AXIS Festival 2007



The Guillemots



Get Cape, Wear Cape, Fly



Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra



Sandi Thom



9 July 2007

The declaration is formally re-launched with support from Staffordshire Sentinel

From the left, Vince Simpson, acting director of North Staffs Racial Equality Council, Simon Harris, chief executive of Stoke Citizens Advice Bureau, Angela Glendenning, chair of PARINS, Mike Sassi, Editor-in-chief of Staffordshire Sentinel News and Media and Staffordshire Police Chief Superintendent Jane Sawyers

The following organisations/events have received our display boards and have actively promoted the sign-up campaign.

29 July Valiants against Racism Family Event at Port Vale FC

30 August Launch of the BME Forum

3 September Stoke-on-Trent Citizen's Advice Bureau

10 September EU Migrants Event at Stoke CAB

11 September North Staffs Carers Association



12 September Cauldon Campus Student Open Day

13 September Burslem Campus Student Open Day

16 September Etruria Park Festival and Family Fun Day

'Volunteer leaders add their names to the campaign'



'City groups unite in war on racism' Sentinel 20 September



20 September **Holocaust Memorial Day at the New Vic Theatre**



26 September
Bethel Christian Centre Conference

12 October **Age Concern North Staffordshire**

20 October **Normacot Family Fun Day**

22 October **Gingerbread**

22 October **Beth Johnson Housing Association**



25 October **Port Vale footballers sign-up and take part in a North Staffs Racial Equality Council Fun Day at Equality House (centre: Vincent Simpson, acting director, NSREC)**

30 October **RESPECT Conference at Britannia Stadium**

31 October **Beat the Cold**



1 November From the left, **Steve Robinson chief executive Stoke City Council, Lord Mayor Bagh Ali, Angela Glendenning, Chair of PARINS, elected Mayor Mark Meredith, and equalities portfolio holder Councillor Mohammed Pervez**

2 November **Disability Solutions**

8 November **African Communities event at the North Staffordshire Racial Equality Council**

22 January **Voluntary Action Stoke-on-Trent**

30 January **Maryhill High School**

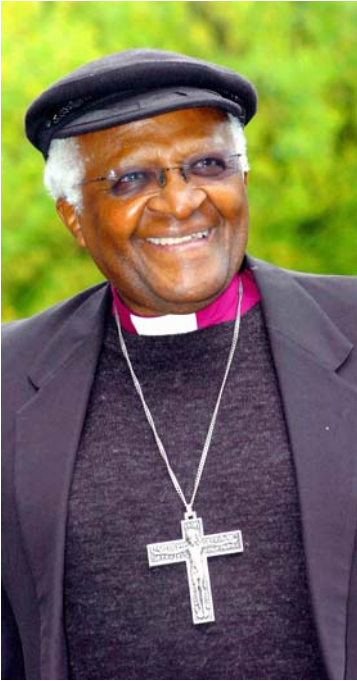
3 February **Newcastle Borough Council pledge its support to the work of the PARINS partnership by signing the declaration**



From left to right: Jude Hawes, Stoke-on-Trent CAB and vice chair of PARINS, Mark Barrow, chief executive, John Williams (New Labour), Angela Glendenning, chair of PARINS, Vince Simpson, acting director of the North Staffordshire Racial Equality Council, Simon Tagg, Leader of the Council, David Beckett, Liberal Democrat



On 21 May Safraz Hussain signed on Behalf of Blue Mountain Housing Association which is part of Staffordshire Housing Association



On Friday, 11 July during a memorable visit to Stoke, Archbishop Desmond Tutu signed the declaration.

We would like many more organisations to sign the declaration. You can do so by hosting our display at your office or at an event or conference.

Contact Theresa on 01782-407947 or email: theresa@nsrec.co.uk

'UNITED STRENGTH IS STRONGER'
KEEPING NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE FREE FROM RACIAL HATRED

DECLARATION

Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Staffordshire Moorlands are places where the diversity of peoples from different backgrounds is appreciated and valued and where there are positive relationships between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, schools and the community. All have a right to live in a just society where racial, religious or cultural differences exist in an atmosphere of mutual respect and where every individual is treated equally and fairly regardless of race, colour of skin or religion, and live together in peace and fellowship based upon a common understanding of security and justice.

There can be no place for those who seek to incite or encourage, blatantly or covertly, racial hatred, prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination between others.

As members of the human family we should show each other respect in our dealings with people of other races, faiths and beliefs. This means:

- Respecting differences of race and culture and remembering that these differences between peoples do not indicate their worth;
- Respecting other people's freedom within the law to express their beliefs and convictions;
- Respecting the rights of others to disagree with us;
- Working to prevent disagreement from leading to conflict;
- Learning to understand what others believe and value;
- Recognising that all of us at times fall short of the ideals of our own traditions, and never comparing our own ideals with other people's practices.

Living and working together is not always easy. Racial, religious and cultural differences harness deep emotions which can sometimes take destructive forms. When this happens we must draw upon our strengths to bring about reconciliation and understanding. We have a great deal to learn from each other which can enrich us without undermining our own identities. Together, listening and responding with openness and respect, we can move forward in ways that acknowledge genuine differences but build on shared hopes and values.

If you would like to speak to someone at PARINS call 01782 407947



Signed:

Name:

Address (optional):

Date:



Please return your signed declaration to: PARINS, FREEPOST, MID19857, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 6BR (No Stamp Needed)

