



**WEST YORKSHIRE CHURCH LEADERS'  
JOINT STATEMENT ON POLITICAL EXTREMISM,  
FULNECK, 22 APRIL 2009**

Seventy years ago, the Fulneck Moravian Settlement became home for Jewish children and families fleeing from the terror of the far right in Europe.

As leaders of different churches in West Yorkshire, meeting at Fulneck, we affirm the values of unity, tolerance, hospitality and mutual respect, which have always helped people from different backgrounds to live together.

- We are deeply concerned at the views and activities of British National Party which is using people's fears to stir up racial and religious hate.
- We assert that all human beings are created equally in the image of God, that racism is a sin, and that such extremist groups do not speak for Christians.
- In particular, we are called to love our neighbours as ourselves; and so we abhor any rejection of our neighbours of other faiths as an affront to all our beliefs and a danger to the unity of the whole community.

On 4 June, the people of Yorkshire and the Humber will choose our representatives in the European Parliament. The regional voting system means that every vote counts. A high turnout will enhance democracy and prevent candidates on extremist platforms from winning seats.

We urge all Christian people to use their cross on 4 June, and, by exercising their right to vote, to defeat the advocates of extremism and hatred.