

NVAFC: RS100 Groups engaged and tactics used to end apartheid

1- Petition with signatures from staff of the Crucible Theatre sent to their funders, Sheffield City Council. 49 members of the Crucible staff sign a petition stating their disapproval of working with a person on the UN banned list. The theatre promises from July 1984 to follow the Council's new ruling to only cast performers not on the UN banned list.

EQUITY MEMBERS:

Take A Stand Against Apartheid

In the next few weeks Equity members will have the opportunity to vote in a referendum relating to the Union's policy on Southern Africa. Here we set out the case of Performers Against Racism, a group of concerned Union members, for an extension of the existing policy. We hope that you will consider the points we raise here when you come to cast your vote.

VOTE "APPROVE" IN THE REFERENDUM

Over 300 blacks in Soweto and other townships in South Africa have been killed over the summer. The jails are full. Repression has intensified even as the "Kissinger initiative" proceeds. For apartheid, a policy which British investment and trade helps maintain, can tolerate no opposition. Yet the people of South Africa, showing great courage, have not been deterred in their attempts to throw off their economic, political and cultural subjugation. And they have a great deal to protest against.

Apartheid and the black population

In South Africa, blacks are subject to vicious laws restricting every freedom we enjoy and denying most—even the vote. They are discriminated against in every aspect of their lives: work, travel, housing, land allocation, family relations, education and trade union activity. Four million whites, owning 87% of the land, dominate 20 million blacks. The apartheid regime is condemned by many countries and organisations, including the United Nations, for its "continued violation of human rights"

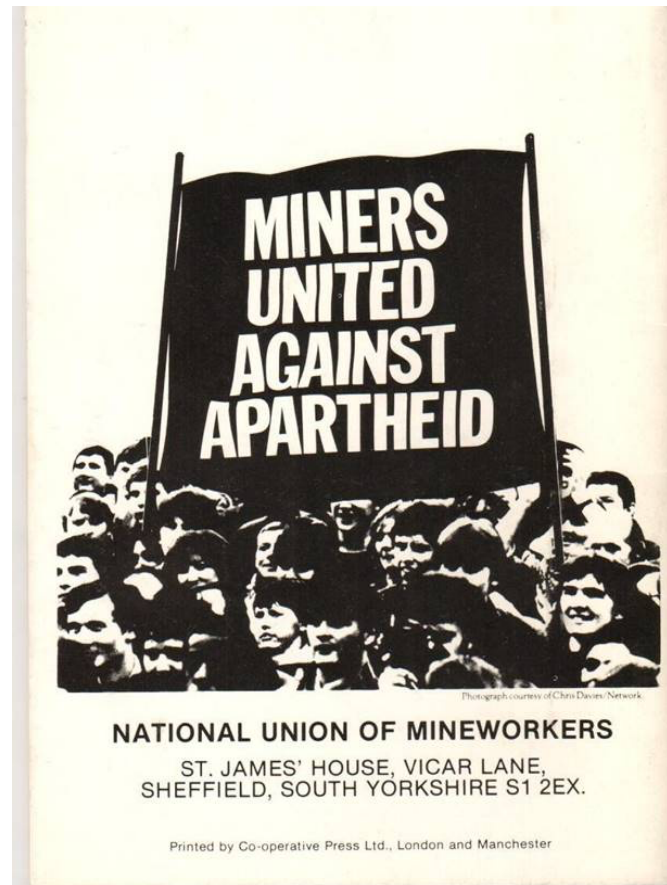
Rhodesia

Rhodesia's illegal regime also practises a form of apartheid. A quarter of a million whites dominate 6½ million blacks, and there are many laws and restrictions on blacks in common with South Africa's—including pass laws.

Performers Against Racism, Forward to
Freedom: Equity referendum, 1976

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2- 1984, Yorkshire Miners voice their opposition to South Africa. In particular they gave support to the miners of South Africa.



Other workers from the Trade Unions in Britain join in campaigns to end apartheid in South Africa.

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3- Opening Night of 'Funny Girl' on 18th May 1984, up to 500 local people picket outside the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.



Sheffield Newspapers,
AAM Forward to Freedom
Archive: Sheffield AA
supporters at the Crucible
Theatre

'The challenge was not convincing people of the arguments. The challenge was persuading people to find time to commit themselves.'

(Paul Blomfield interview, 2012)

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4- 1978, support to end apartheid comes from the Black community of Burngreave (Pitsmoor). Meetings also involve the Overseas Student Bureau, Sheffield University Asian Youth Movement and West Indian Association amongst others.



Paul Blomfield

Sheffield's Anti-Apartheid meetings have a number of Black members such as Dorothy Dixon-Barrow, Lionel and Guy Lambert.

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5- c. 1985, Anti-Apartheid protestors outside Barclays Bank on Jew (*Jehu) Lane. Many students have bank accounts with Barclays.



Paul Blomfield

* named after King Jehu of Israel who drove fast chariots as did Sheffield's 28th Century cab/coach drivers; or as a waiting place of coach/cab drivers who congregated here; or due to frequency of Jewish people in the area historically.

'We would stand outside branches of Barclays Bank ... but people would say to you: "There are three of you... How can you persuade a major... bank to change?"' (Paul Blomfield interview, 2012)

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6- Letter(s) to Marti Caine, February - March 1984.

Sheffield Anti-Apartheid group sends letters to Marti Caine asking her to not perform again in apartheid-led South Africa. While her friends stated she is not biased, Caine does not respond.



AAM Archives Committee,
Forward to freedom: AA News
November 1982

'We were always a solidarity movement. We did not bring change. We supported the people of South Africa in bringing change.' (Paul Blomfield, interview 2012)

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7- 1986, after the UN Resolution was passed, many music artists stayed away from performing in South Africa. Instead they gave their time, often free, to raise money to help the Anti-Apartheid campaign.

AAA
ARTISTS AGAINST APARTHEID
AND THE SHEFFIELD ANTI APARTHEID MOVEMENT PRESENT
● IN THE MAIN HALL AT 7.00pm ●
NEW ORDER
BILLY BRAGG
THE INSPIRATIONAL CHOIR
● IN THE BALLROOM AT 10.30pm ●
CABARET VOLTAIRE
SHEFFIELD CITY HALL
SATURDAY JUNE 14th
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CITY HALL BOX OFFICE (0742) 735 295
MAIN HALL £6.50 £5.50 £4.50 (LESS £1.50 CONCS.) BALLROOM £3.50 £2.50
ALSO JOHN COOPER CLARKE / LATIN QUARTER - JUNE 15 - CRUCIBLE THEATRE

SANCTIONS NOW!
SANCTIONS NOW!
SANCTIONS NOW!
SANCTIONS NOW!
SANCTIONS NOW!
SANCTIONS NOW!
SANCTIONS NOW!
SANCTIONS NOW!
PROCEEDS GO TO A.N.C., SWAPO
& THE ANTI APARTEID MOVEMENT

Sheffield Music Archives

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8- 1989, Anti-Apartheid protestors calling for a ban on South African products e.g. bananas being sold in Tesco.



Martin Jenkinson Image
Library, AAM Archives:
Picketing Tesco in Sheffield.

'We organised lots of protests outside of Tescos. We tried to persuade people not to buy South African goods.' (Paul Blomfield, interview 2012)

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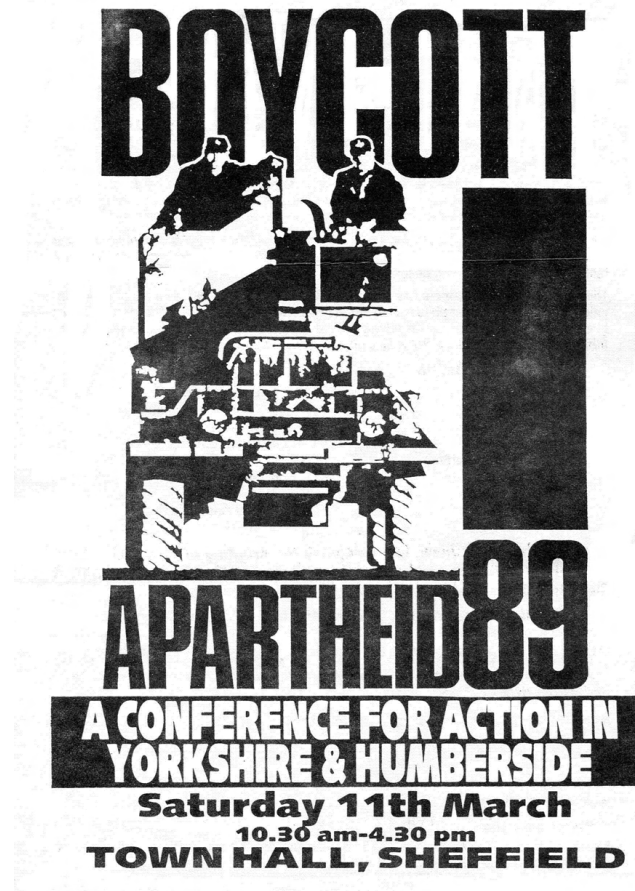
9- Throughout the 1970s Yorkshire M.P.s campaigned against South Africa - (left to right) Dennis Skinner, Martin Flannery and Bob Cryer.



Photo courtesy of Kate Flannery

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10- Anti-Apartheid Conference, Sheffield, 1989.



Yorkshire and Humberside Anti-Apartheid Committee,
AAM Archives Committee: Boycott Apartheid 89
conference.

'party conferences... motions and seconding motions... to make sure people were all working towards the same thing, in the same direction, not off on a tangent.' (Kath Harding, interview 2012)