



I.B.R.G.

LAMBETH

IRISH IN BRITAIN REPRESENTATION GROUP

THE SEVEN AIMS

In order that our Irish community in Lambeth should be able to live their lives free from discrimination and intimidation, and that they may be free (in this multicultural society) to maintain their own language and culture and pass those on to their children, we expect Lambeth Councillors to support and endorse the following seven aims:

1. Recognise that racism and its associated disadvantages is practised against the Irish community in Lambeth (both Irish-born and British-born) and that this racism has led to discrimination in housing and employment and has had a serious effect on the ability of Irish people to transmit their culture and language to their children. It has had a similar effect on the ability of Irish children to absorb and feel proud of their heritage and identity;
2. in keeping with this recognition, to support positive steps aimed at countering anti-Irish discrimination via the use of the Council's influence on our society, e.g. by public statements, appropriate literature and the expansion of the current equal opportunities/racial dimension of the Council so that includes discrimination against Irish people;
3. in keeping with this recognition, to support a demand for the Council to expand the Equal Opportunities information currently obtained through race monitoring so that it includes the Irish as a distinct disadvantaged group, and to enable the extent of employment disadvantage among Lambeth Irish people to be more accurately assessed;
4. to support demands for the Council to undertake research in order to identify and analyse the needs of the Lambeth Irish community with particular regard to welfare and cultural needs;
5. to recognise the needs of our elderly and our children for contact with their people and culture and to support steps to be taken by the Council to ensure that this is included in the planning and running of day centres, old people's homes, nurseries, etc., as well as ensuring that any of our children taken into care are positively aided to maintain their cultural identity and that this is also introduced as a factor in fostering/adoption situations;
6. to support demands for the Council to employ specialist workers and/or educate present workers to understand the cultural and social problems of our aged and our young and to counter the lack of knowledge of benefits as well as the problems of isolation, mental illness, alcoholism and suicide among our community;
7. recognise that the PTA is a racist weapon used unjustifiably and indiscriminately against the Irish in Britain to stifle our political development. Support demands for the Council to oppose the use of the PTA within the boundaries of Lambeth via public statements of condemnation and to support the declaration of a 'PTA Free Zone' in Lambeth to underline the total opposition of Lambeth Council to the PTA. To support the demand for the monitoring of this Act and its effects to be included within the brief of the Police Committee.

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