

STUC St Andrew's Day Anti-Racism Brochure 2007
Message of support from the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

On behalf of the Jewish Communities of Scotland, we welcome the continued commitment of the STUC, and the Trade Union movement in general, to the elimination of all forms of hatred and discrimination.

To us, as members of a minority that defines itself in religious as well as ethnic terms, that "all forms" is important. No-one should ever suggest that victims of harassment or abuse should change their behaviour, or the way they dress, or the food they eat, or their culture and practices, in order to avoid being picked on – that is to blame the victim.

It is ironic and utterly indefensible that at the very time that the law has extended protection against discrimination to age, religion, and sexual orientation, as well as ethnicity, gender, and disability, there are those who seek to promote their own sectional agenda at the expense of others – that is not equality but self-interest.

There should be no hierarchy of discrimination. Nobody should ever argue that one minority's hurt is more or less significant than another. That is not solidarity but division.

To paraphrase Pastor Niemöller's famous words:

First they came for the ethnic minorities, and I did not speak up,
for I am not from an ethnic minority.

Then they came for those with disabilities, and I did not speak up,
for I do not have a disability.

Then they came for those of different gender, and I did not speak up,
for I am not of that gender.

Then they came for those of minority sexual orientation, and I did not speak up,
for I am not of minority sexual orientation.

Then they came for the old and the young, and I did not speak up,
for I am neither old nor young.

Then they came for the religious minorities, and I did not speak up,
for I am not from a religious minority.

To our shame, there are still those who think like this, and to them I pose the question: when they come for you, who will be left to speak up for you?

Ephraim Borowski
Director