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BRISTOL BOYCOTT OF SCHOOLS AGAINST THE NATIONAL FRONT
MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

The boycott of children today from schools in Bristol, to protest the National Front meeting tonight at Sefton Park School, in the midst of the "black community, has been a great success. The boycott, called by Black Women for Wages for Housework and Montpelier and St Pauls Parents and Friends, was organised four days ago, after local officials refused to meet with West Indian, Asian and white parents about the proposed meeting.

Mrs. Norma Steele of Black Women for Wages for Housework has said, "Sefton Park was chosen because we Black mothers had been organising with white mothers from this school to stop the education cuts. These cuts meant children would be sent home from school if teachers were off sick. We can't afford to lose the wages or become unpaid teachers for our friends' children if we are full-time housewives. Nor is it in the Education Act that our children must go to school with the National Front."

Fifty percent of children at St Barnabas School in St Pauls were kept away from school by their mothers, and all over Bristol there were empty school desks. The mothers recruited church halls and community centres and organised film shows and entertainment for the children.

"We have made clear that we mothers will not be divided, whatever local officials do or don't do," said Mrs. Steele. "We want to stop the National Front meeting to prevent violence now and in the future, and we mothers are taking the lead."

For further information

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