

NATIONAL CONFERENCE MAY 1990

The state of East London ECC

From the outset EL ECC saw itself as a small organisation which would respond to military related issues in the Border region and only take up national campaigns in a limited way.

The rationale behind this was the fact that the activists which formed the core group of the relaunched ECC in East London were all extensively involved in various other organisations and were unable to take on much more political work.

In our recent assesment of the state of EL ECC we concluded that this was still a realistic approach as the formation of new organisations and crisis situations such as the Conubie squatter evictions have overstretched our activists even more.

We have 8 core group activists and +- 15 members which attend meetings.

An interesting feature of the EL ECC is attendance by Duncan Village Resident Association members and a representative from the EL Friends of the UDF, a UDF affiliate in the "coloured" community.

Members of the UDF unit have expressed an interest in ECC and wish to see it as a non-racial organisation.

Our Work

The Duncan Village community project was taken over by ECC as it had been run by a committee comprised of the same organisations and individuals which formed the new ECC in East London. This project's package is available to regions and will be presented in one of the workshops at this conference so we will not elaborate further here.

An internal workshop was held with Dave Schmidt shortly after the relaunching of ECC to discuss the future direction of ECC. We held a small lunch-time public meeting with Brendan Moran as the speaker to highlight the CO issue. Another CO, Michael Graaf, addressed an ECC meeting. The CO register has increased by 25%.

Future Work

Consultations are in the pipeline with the Duncan Village Residents Association and Youth about a rounding off of the community project with some form of celebration and naming ceremony.

We also plan to have a photographic exhibition of the project in a local art gallery.

We still hope to host a large cultural event/concert with the aid of the East London Action Forum, the UDF affiliate in the "white" area.

We had hoped to have a focus on International CO Day - the feature's editor of the local newspaper had agreed to do an extensive piece on South African Cos and the Black Sash was to have had a stand but national information did not arrive on time so we have delayed this action.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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