

“NO!” to White Supremacists in Charlotte

On Saturday, February 5, groups opposing American Renaissance will hold a rally and forum in Charlotte NC. The rally will be in Marshall Park, E. 3rd Street between S. Davidson and S. McDowell from 10am-11:30am. The forum will be at West Boulevard Library, 2157 West Boulevard, Charlotte 28208, 1:00-2:30pm. The forum will include Leonard Zeskind, author of *Blood and Politics: The History of the White Nationalist Movement from the Margins to the Mainstream* and President of the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights.

American Renaissance (AmRen), published by white supremacist **Jared Taylor**, is a newsletter that promotes pseudoscientific research which argues that non-whites are genetically and morally inferior. AmRen puts on a bi-annual conference since 1994 that brings together subscribers and others who share the racist views espoused by the newsletter. Previous attendees include former **Ku Klux Klan** members **David Duke** and **Don Black** of the neo-Nazi website **Stormfront**.

In February 2010, AmRen was unable to hold its conference due to several hotels in the Metro DC Area canceling contracts with AmRen. The Sheraton Airport-Charlotte was booked for February 4-6, 2011 by American Renaissance using the name New Century Foundation. The Sheraton canceled the contract with AmRen just as hotels did in 2010 out of concern for the comfort and safety of all their hotel guests.

Southern Anti-Racism Network (SARN), a Durham-based regional organization, is coordinating activities for February 5 to protest AmRen and their attempt to use Charlotte as the place to hold their conference. Organizations endorsing opposition to AmRen from GA, NC, SC, the Midwest and the Northeast include Independent Progressive Politics Network, Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, New South Network of War Resisters, North Carolina Green Party, One People's Project, SC AFL-CIO and SC Progressive Network.

After hearing that a Charlotte hotel had refused to host the conference, George Friday of the Independent Progressive Politics Network (IPPN) said, "I hope Charlotte hotels will continue to decline hosting AmRen and the hate groups it attracts. Given that Charlotte is under consideration for a major convention, hotels should not risk a golden opportunity for the likes of American Renaissance."

Organizations have been meeting since November 2010. On January 24, all participating groups established nonviolence as the core agreement for all activities on February 5. The agreement declares "All apparel, signs, speech and printed materials will be free of violent rhetoric."

The National Lawyers Guild will provide legal observers for the February 5 activities opposing American Renaissance.

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