



WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY ♦ 28TH APRIL Remember the Dead: Fight for the living

Union workplaces are safer workplaces!

International Workers Memorial Day 28

April 2015

#Save lives:

Put hazardous substances out of work!



In G.B. every year over 1,000 people are killed while doing their jobs - including those working on roads, in sea & air, work-related suicides & members of public killed by work activity. Plus up to 50,000 people die each year from work-related diseases: 20,000 from heart disease caused by dust, long hours, heavy workloads, stress; 18,000 from all work cancer. min. 5,000 from asbestos exposure alone; and 20,000 from lung diseases. Unlike those dying in war or major incidents, they are not publicly remembered yet **well over 2.3 million people are killed by work worldwide each year** - more than by war or AIDS.

"If terrorism took such a toll, just imagine what would be said and done." said Jukka Takala, ex International Labour Organisation (ILO)

International Workers Memorial Day (IWMD) remembers them all and is part of the worldwide campaign to make all workplaces safer and healthier. For every one killed in an incident, at least 50 more are killed by illnesses caused by work conditions.

International Recognition

Started by Canadian Public Service Union (CUPE), the Canadian Labour Congress declared an annual day of remembrance in 1985 on 28 April which is the anniversary of a comprehensive Workers Compensation Act, passed in 1914. In 1991, the Canadian parliament made 28 April an official Workers' Mourning Day. For years WMD events have been organised in Canada and the USA where it is the anniversary of the OSHA Act, and then worldwide. Hazards Campaigner Tommy Harte, brought WMD to the UK in 1992 as a day to **'Remember the Dead: Fight for the Living'**. We added the purple forget-me-knot ribbon as our symbol.

WMD is recognised as a national day in over 20 countries now as the UK made it official in 2010! In 2001 the ILO, declared 28 April 'Global Health and Safety Day'.

On WMD 2015 in the UK, **we will stand up for safety and health**, against the lies government and business is using to dismantle our health and safety system when far too many are killed and made ill and it needs strengthening. **We Will Not Vote to Die at Work on 7th May!** We demand a government that puts our lives and health at the centre of a new excellent health and safety system which will be good for all: www.hazards.org/votetodie

Tens of thousands of workers are killed and hundreds of thousands are made ill by exposure to hazardous substances at work every year.

This is despite the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations being in place for 25 years. For #IWMD15 we must use the COSHH to stamp out exposures to substances that cause cancer, heart and lung disease, skin disease and neurological and autoimmune and endocrine diseases such as diabetes and obesity. We must make employers prevent hazardous substances from killing us and making us sick.

For 25 years, workers, unions, families and campaigning groups have held IWMD events and forced the UK government to recognise WMD in 2010. Every year we make clear the link between deaths and illness caused by work. Most workers do not die of mystery ailments, or in tragic 'accidents' but because an employer decided their safety or health wasn't that important a priority, and governments failed to make them to do better. And this is getting worse since 2010 as government has attacked health and safety as a 'burden on business' when the real burden is on us and the public purse.

Across the world there are tens of thousands of events on 28th April when millions participate in solidarity, standing up for workers' health and safety, demanding that employers and governments stop the death toll caused by work. Hundreds of varied events are organised across the UK every year, marking both aspects of Workers Memorial day. **'Remembering the Dead'** with empty shoes, flowers, lighted candles, crosses, balloons, artwork, photographs, wearing of purple ribbons, laying wreaths; doves and balloons have been released,, trees and gardens have been planted, statues, plaques and sculptures set up and benches dedicated; songs, poems and the names of the dead read out. We have been **Fighting for the Living** by providing the evidence that unions and safety reps save lives; demanding strong regulation and enforcement which is proven to save lives and also money for employers and the public purse; lobbying MPs and ministers; by marching with banners and leafleting the public, and by direct action such as confronting the minister outside the DWP, blocking the Southwark Bridge outside HSE offices, London.

For more information on past UK and international events see Hazards Magazine WMD pages at www.hazards.org/wmd/images.htm and on FaceBook at Workers Memorial Day 28 April. **#IWMD15 is OUR Day to tell our stories** and this year more than ever we must **'Fight like hell for the Living'** while still **Remembering the Dead'**

www.hazardscampaign.org.uk

Get involved WMD 2015

Find a WMD event near you at: www.tuc.org.uk/workersmemorialday



DON'T VOTE TO DIE AT WORK
On 7th May!

Hazards

Campaign 13 step election guide demands of new government:

Hey!
Whatcha gonna do?
www.hazards.org/votetodie



Families Against Corporate Killers (FACK) Facebook Group, and DVD: **'Face the FACKS: the human cost of workplace killing'**
www.fack.org.uk



Wear a Purple Forget-me-Knot Ribbon 30p each plus SAE; 30p each for 2-99 plus postage; £30 inc p&p per 100 ribbons. Free posters, stats & resources - mail@gmhazards.org.uk
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