



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

Union workplaces are safer workplaces!

International Workers Memorial Day 28 April 2012

TUC Day of Action to Defend Workers' health & safety against government attacks on regulation, enforcement & compensation

In G.B. each year over 1,300 people are killed while doing their jobs - including those working on the roads, in sea and air, work-related suicides and members of the public killed by work activity. Plus up to 50,000 people die each year from work-related diseases: about 5,000 from asbestos diseases and 20,000 from heart disease caused by stress alone. Unlike those dying in war or major incidents, they are not publicly remembered yet **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."* Jukka Takala, ILO. **International Workers Memorial Day remembers them all** and is part of the worldwide campaign to make all workplaces safer.

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 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'. WMD is recognised as a national day in 20 countries now as the UK made it official in 2010! Argentina, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Luxembourg, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA, Ukraine & Venezuela. In 2001 the ILO, declared 28 April 'Global Health and Safety Day' ON WMD 2012 we will stand up against the lies this government is using to try to dismantle our health and safety system which will kill, injure and make more workers ill. **WMD is OUR Day** and this year more than ever we must **'Fight like hell for the Living' while Remembering the Dead'**.

This government's deregulation and cuts to enforcement will kill!

This government wants to take us backwards, to slash health and safety law and its enforcement and put workers and members of the public at even greater risk—already the death rate has gone up! The TUC has declared 28 April 2012 a Day of Action to Defend health and safety. For over 20 years, unions, families and campaigning groups have held WMD events and forced 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.



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, commemorating both aspects of Workers Memorial day. **Remembering the Dead** with religious and secular ceremonies, wearing of purple ribbons, laying wreaths and a minutes silence; with lighted candles, empty shoes, terracotta figures, large photographs of workers killed just for going to work, and rows of crosses; balloons and doves 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 publicising the real numbers killed at and by work in avoidable incidents and illnesses, the reasons they are killed and that we need strong regulation and enforcement to stop this; distributing posters and statistics; lobbying MPs and ministers, making demands on governments; 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 <http://www.hazards.org/wmd/images.htm> and on FaceBook at <http://www.facebook.com/?>



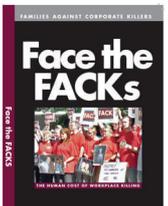
Get involved in WMD

Find a WMD event near you at: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-20489-f0.cfm>; Find TUC Day of Action resources at: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/wmd>



We Didn't Vote to Die at Work campaign resources at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=123746101003963> and <http://www.hazards.org/votetodie/>

Families Against Corporate Killers DVD: **'Face the FACKS: the human cost of workplace killing'**



<http://www.fack.org.uk>
"Regulations don't kill jobs Cameron, lack of regulation kills workers!"



 *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@gmhzards.org.uk
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