

Windrush Millennium Centre 70 Alexandra Road  
Manchester M16 7WD

**Safety Reps Guide to  
International Workers  
Memorial Day  
28 April 2009  
'Good occupational health  
for all workers'**

**MAKE SURE MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT IT!**

• Remind members now that Workers Memorial Day (WMD) is on Tuesday 28 April 2009 and explain what it's for—see background leaflet to International Workers Memorial Day. IWMD is **our day** to explain that: people are not killed, injured and made ill at work in freak accidents, but due to poor management of H&S; the huge death toll exceeds the HSE official figures; and to make demands on government to reverse this and prevent further needless deaths at work. WMD is not just about depoliticised remembrance events, but an active campaigning day.

• Make members aware of the **twin aims**

**1 Remember the Dead**

Those killed at work are not publicly remembered on any other day, and

**2 Fight for the Living**

Campaigning for better H&S so workers don't die or get maimed or killed by occupational illnesses.

You can hold an event for both of these aims by focusing on the fact that the majority of deaths (over 70%) are caused by employers failure to manage health and safety properly while remembering the real number of those killed by work..

• Gather information and resources, customise existing material for your own members:

\* **Key site -Hazards magazine** web site has background on corporate crime, updates, international links and ideas - [www.hazards.org/wmd](http://www.hazards.org/wmd) and [www.hazards.org/deadlybusiness](http://www.hazards.org/deadlybusiness)

\* Check your own union journal and web site;

\* Check TUC web-site for details of events

[www.tuc.org.uk/h\\_and\\_s/](http://www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/) and on-line Remembrance.

\* **Greater Manchester Hazards Centre** sells purple forget-me-knot ribbons, car stickers, distributes free posters, international, national and local statistics and local information -[www.gmhzards.org.uk](http://www.gmhzards.org.uk) and [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk) for more information.

\* Centre for Corporate Accountability web site:

\* [www.corporateaccountability.org](http://www.corporateaccountability.org)

\* HSE for official but limited UK statistics

[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

\* Global information and statistics from ILO site:

[www.ilo.org/public/english/standards](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards)

**ORGANISE AN EVENT ON WMD**

• Plant a tree or garden, put up a plaque, dedicate a sculpture, piece of art or bench, place empty shoes or candles to remember workers who have been killed at your

workplace, in the local area, or the whole country;

• Negotiate with your employer to hold a one minute silence;

• Ask the council or other institutions to lower the flag on their buildings in respect;

**To ensure you include the Fight for the living:**

• Hold a meeting on the need for a worker-centred approach to occupational health—prevention of illness, and creation of healthy workplaces not punitive sickness absence policies, forced return to any job at any cost to workers health, workfare or lifestyle based health promotion;

• Hold a safety reps inspection or carry out some risk assessments or risk, hazards or body mapping;

• Put pressure on the government to act by encouraging members to:

write to their MPs and to ministers - Lord McKenzie Minister for H&S at the Department of Work & Pensions, Jack Straw Minister for Justice demanding: positive legal duties on all directors for H&S; much more proactive enforcement ; and for WMD to be made an official day of action on H&S.

• **Do something completely different** - these ideas are only suggestions, catch the public imagination - direct action, a march, or rally see [www.simonjones.org.uk](http://www.simonjones.org.uk); and [www.hazards.org](http://www.hazards.org)

**WHATEVER YOU DO MAKE SURE YOU**

• Tell the local media - free papers, radio, TV- what you are doing and why;

• Invite and involve the families of local victims but be very sensitive to their needs and what they want - some want to grieve in private so do not use the names of people unless their families have agreed, but many do want to be involved and are keen to talk to the press;

• Contact **families against corporate killers (FACK)** [mail@gmhzards.org.uk](mailto:mail@gmhzards.org.uk), [www.fack.org.uk](http://www.fack.org.uk)

• Let your own TU know what you are doing and GMHC so we can publicise it;

• Involve as many people as possible- your own members, not just activists, local people, Cllrs, MPs, MEPs.

Each WMD, GMHC remembers all those killed by work in the North West. We try to support their families to get some justice. So please let us know of anyone killed at work in this area, and FACK for nationwide deaths

**GMHC at [mail@gmhzards.org.uk](mailto:mail@gmhzards.org.uk);**

[www.gmhzards.org.uk](http://www.gmhzards.org.uk)

**Union workplaces : safer workplaces!**