

**REMEMBER
THE DEAD**

'Union Workplaces:Safer Workplaces'
2009 theme:
'Good occupational
health for all workers'

FIGHT
For The Living

In the UK, each year 1,500 to 1,600 people are killed while doing their jobs - including those killed on the roads while working. And up to 50,000 people die each year in GB from work-related diseases: about 5,000 from asbestos diseases alone.

Unlike those dying in war or major incidents, they are not publicly remembered yet **over two 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 Workers Memorial Day remembers them all** and is part of the campaign to make workplaces safer, to reduce deaths, injuries and illness caused by work.

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 19 countries: Argentina, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Bermuda, Canada, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Luxembourg, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Taiwan, Ukraine & Venezuela but not the UK! In 1996 ICF TU commemorated WMD & started setting themes. For 2000 Good occupational health for all is the ITUC theme.

In 2001 the ILO, part of the United Nations, declared 28 April 'Global Health and Safety Day' but it remains our day for workers to remember the dead and confront employers & government over their failure to stop worker deaths, injuries and illness.

International Workers Memorial Day 28 April 2009

Worldwide demonstrations and Memorial Events

For over 20 years, unions and campaigning groups have held WMD events to 'Remember the Dead' but also to 'Fight for the Living' by making clear the link between deaths and illness caused by work, non compliant to criminal employers, poor H&S laws and lax enforcement. Most people do not die of mystery ailments, or in tragic 'accidents'. They die because an employer decided their safety just wasn't that important a priority. Marking WMD 2008 worldwide there were over 10,000 union events in over 100 countries involving over 6 million workers. Make WMD 2009 bigger yet!

WMD 2009 UK

Over 25,000 purple forget-me-knots will be worn and 20,000 Posters displayed. Events are being organised all over the country— from London to Glasgow and Edinburgh, from Penzance to Manchester and Newcastle. Find out if there is one near you from your union, or the TUC listing.

In the **North West** (see www.gmhazards.org.uk for more details) there will be a joint union event and workshop in **Manchester**; an event in **Chorley** near the UNITE tree in Astley Park; presentation of the Andrew Herbertson Award, Georges Sq Gdns by Oldham Trades Council; **Preston & District WMD Committee** march and rally on Saturday 25th April see www.prestonworkers.org.uk; in **Liverpool** there will be **UCATT, UNITE & GMB** events.

There are many other workplace and local events, see www.hazards.org/wmd and www.tuc.org.uk workers memorial day for full listings.

If you did nothing in 2008, make sure you are organised for WMD 2009 see safety Reps guide for ideas!

**Wear a purple ribbon for
Workers Memorial Day**

**Display Hazards poster: 'When somebody is killed at
work the whole family is affected'**



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

**Union workplaces
are safer workplaces!**



WEAR A PURPLE FORGET-ME-KNOT RIBBON

On WMD 2009 'Fight for the Living' by lobbying MPs and government to

- Reduce ill-health caused by work rather than punitive sickness absence schemes, workfare and lifestyle initiatives;
- Make jobs safe & healthy jobs for all not back to work at any cost to workers health;
- Enforce H&S law strictly to prevent all work-related ill-health such as stress, musculo-skeletal disorders
- Give more funding for enforcement of H&S
- Give more rights to safety reps like PINS
- Take action to reduce death by occupational illness esp. cancer
- Ensure more gender-sensitive H&S

G. Manchester Hazards Centre, Windrush Millennium Centre. 70 Alexandra Road Manchester M16 7WD
Tel: 0161 636 7557

sells purple ribbon knots at 30p each plus SAE; 30p each for 2-99 inc postage; £25 inc p&p per 100 ribbons.

Car stickers available too.

For more info go to:
www.hazards.org/wmd
www.gmhazards.org.uk and see Safety Reps Guide.