

**REMEMBER
THE DEAD**

'Union Workplaces:Safer Workplaces'

2007 theme:

'Enforcement of health &
safety law saves lives'

FIGHT
For The Living

In the UK, each year 1,600 to 1,700 people are killed while doing their jobs - including those killed on the roads while working. Another 20-50,000 people die each year 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 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 12 countries: Argentina, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, Luxembourg, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain and Taiwan. Unions in other countries are pursuing government recognition in 2006.

1996 ICFTU commemorated WMD & started setting themes. For 2007 Enforcement and Inspection plus TU Organisation is the TUC and ETUC 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.

Workers Memorial Day 28 April 2007

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 at work and 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 2006 worldwide there were at least 10,000 union events in over 100 countries involving over 6 million workers.

WMD 2006 UK

Over 25,000 purple forget-me-knots were worn and a record number of events were listed on the TUC website.

Manchester: Joint Union meeting and rally in Peace Gardens with TU speakers, bereaved relatives and Billy Bragg.

Rochdale: unveiling of international asbestos memorial.

Preston & District WMD Committee held a rally and unveiled a plaque; earlier conference for safety reps www.prestonworkers.org.uk

In London the Construction Safety Campaign with support of South East Region TUC organised a protest outside Canada House against asbestos exports followed by march and rally.

Oldham: Oldham Trades Council organised the presentation of Andrew Herbertson Award to Tameside TU Education Unit.

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

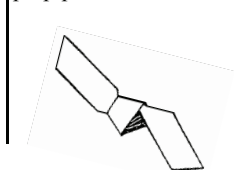
**If you did nothing in 2006, make sure
you are organised for WMD 2007!**

**WEAR A PURPLE
FORGET-ME-KNOT
RIBBON**

On WMD 2007 'Fight for the Living' by:

- lobbying MPs and government -death due to work is a crime and should be treated as such;
- demanding amendments to Bill on corporate killing plus legal H&S duties on Directors NOW; **stricter enforcement of H&S law, higher fines, imprisonment, more inspectors;**
- demanding more rights for safety reps like PINS
- abolition of Crown and Parliamentary immunity
- more action to reduce death by occupational illness inc. cancer
- 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



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