

**REMEMBER
THE DEAD**

**'Union Workplaces:
Safer Workplaces'**

'Global Ban on Asbestos'

**FIGHT
For The Living**

In the UK, each year about 1,500 people are killed while doing their jobs - including those killed on the roads while working. Another 10-20,000 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.

In 1996 the ICFTU commemorated WMD and began to set an annual theme. For 2006 the ICFTU theme is Union workplaces; safer workplaces plus a Global Ban on Asbestos and HIV/Aids. A

In 2001 the ILO, part of the United Nations, recognised WMD and declared it 'Global Health and Safety Day'

Workers Memorial Day 28 April 2006

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 2005 worldwide there were at least 10,000 union events in over 100 countries involving over 6 million workers.

WMD 2005 UK

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

Manchester: AMICUS held a conference, GMB unveiled a WMD stone, UCATT held a rally.

Preston Trades Council held a rally and balloon release

In London the Construction Safety Campaign with support of South East Region TUC organised a march from Tate Modern to the HQ of the HSE and then onto the Mayor's HQ. The rally was addressed by Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, and speakers from Prospect, ASLEF, UCATT and the TGWU.

Bradford Safety Reps organised an asbestos meeting
Sec of State Alan Johnson gave government support for WMD but we need action not the deregulation talk currently spoken by the Chancellor and Prime Minister
There were many other workplace and local events, see www.hazards.org/wmd and www.tuc.org.uk workers memorial day for full listings.

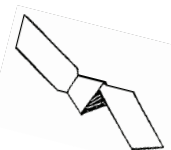
**If you did nothing in 2005, make sure
you are organised for WMD 2006!**

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

On WMD 2006 'Fight for the Living' by:

- lobbying MPs and government - death due to work is a crime and should be treated as such;
- demanding the law 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
- 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*



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