



FACTSHEET

Safety Reps Guide

Workers Memorial Day

28 April 2005

'Prevention through Employer Accountability'

MAKE SURE MEMBERS KNOW

- Remind members now that Workers Memorial Day (WMD) is on Thursday 28 April 2005
- 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 either or both of these aims, even better, link them together by focusing on the fact that the majority of deaths are caused by employers failure to manage health and safety properly.
- 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 and 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/ and on-line Book of Remembrance
- * Greater Manchester Hazards Centre sells purple forget-me-knot ribbons and Remember the Dead: Fight for the Living posters - www.gmhazards.org.uk for background to WMD;
- * Centre for Corporate Accountability web site: www.corporateaccountability.org has current information on Corporate Killing Bill, Directors duties, Penalties & fines, and names of people killed by work, check for your area;
- * HSE for UK statistics www.hse.gov.uk
- * Global information and statistics from ILO site: www.ilo.org/public/english/standards

ORGANISE AN EVENT ON WMD

To Remember the Dead

- 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 a workplace or in the local community, or in the whole country;
- Hold a one minute silence at work;
- Get people to wear purple 'forget-me-knot' ribbons and put up WMD posters;

- Ask the council or other institutions to lower the flag on their buildings in respect;
- Ask religious centres (churches, mosques, temples, synagogues) to include WMD in their worship during the week -contact **Amicus/MSF Church and clergy workers section** for worship material and local contacts Tel 020 7939 7008; or 020 7505 3000

To Fight for the living:

- Organise a meeting on H&S and the need for more employer accountability;
- 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 - Jane Kennedy Minister for H&S at the Department of Work & Pensions, Charles Clarke, Home Secretary, demanding action on corporate killing and directors duties for H&S 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 and Hazards websites and look at TUC calendar of events for ideas.

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;
- 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 the families of those killed at work to get some justice. So please let us know of anyone killed at work in this area.

GMHC at mail@gmhazards.org.uk;
www.gmhazards.org.uk