“We didn’t Vote to Die at Work: so “Stop it -You’re killing us!”

UK Government declared war on health and safety = more deaths, injuries and ill-health at work
UK Hazards Campaigns

Set up in 1987 after 2\textsuperscript{nd} Hazards Conference: A network of grassroots Hazards organisations, Hazards Centres, Occupational Health Advice Services, UK WorkStress Network, Asbestos Victims Support Groups, Asbestos in Schools, Alliance for Cancer Prevention, Construction Safety Campaign, Blacklist Support Group, RSI Action, Families Against Corporate Killers, local Safety Reps Groups, Trade Unions and Hazards magazine

- Campaigning for better health and safety, meets 4 times a year. Organises:
  - International Workers Memorial Day 28 April
  - Annual Hazards Conference - 24\textsuperscript{th} July 2013
  - Hazards magazine
Hazards Campaign organisations act locally with workers

• Work with workers/union safety reps on all aspects of occupational health and safety e.g., dust and chemicals causing skin, lung disease and cancers; stress from long hours, heavy workloads bullying & harassment; musculo-skeletal disorders due to poor job design/equipment, too much hard work and inadequate breaks; effects of shift work and working time; fire safety; asbestos, construction and other industry safety; endocrine disrupting chemicals etc.
The Hazards Campaign Charter

"It is a universal human right to have a safe and healthy workplace, and to be able to go to work and return after a day’s work as fit and healthy as when we left home”

Health & safety demands on the Government

1. Equal Health & Safety Standards for all workers
   All workers are not given the full protection of health and safety law
   Hazards Campaign demand: That the health, safety and welfare standards at work of all workers are universally enforced, that a gender sensitive approach is ensured, that work is fit for the workers and is fit for all workers, and

2. Safety representatives rights
   Safety reps save lives and make workplaces safer and healthier
   Hazards Campaign demand: Full recognition and enforcement of existing safety reps rights and the establishment of additional rights, including the right to be Roving Reps, serve Provisional Improvement Notices (PINs), refuse dangerous work by stopping the job, and to fully participate in all aspects of health and safety in the workplace.

3. Employers’ duties and responsibilities
   At least 50% of incidents that kill or injure workers are due to failures by employers to properly manage health and safety
   Hazards Campaign demand: New laws to criminalise corporate killing, define the health and safety duties of controllers of organisations, include health and safety performance in Annual Reports and abolish Crown Imunity.

4. Enforcement
   Breaches of health and safety laws are criminal offences which should be properly enforced as other areas of the criminal justice system
   Hazards Campaign demand: More resources for the Health and Safety Executive and Local Authorities, higher penalties and more preventative enforcement, strict from Guidance to Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs) and from ACOPs to Regulations.

5. Occupational ill-health
   Millions of workers are made ill every year by stress, musculoskeletal disorders, asbestos-related diseases, cancer, asthma, dermatitis etc.
   Hazards Campaign demand: Government and employers must prioritise the prevention of work related ill-health and establish an adequately funded worker-controlled occupational health system, available free of charge to all workers.

6. Compensation for occupational injury and illness
   Workers injured or made ill by work get a raw deal
   Hazards Campaign demand: A just and effective system of civil and state compensation which maintains workers standard of living and addresses the burden of all illnesses caused by work, addresses gender inequalities and increases opportunities for the rehabilitation of those disabled by work.

7. Road Risk
   Risks associated with driving at work must be managed under the framework of health and safety legislation
   Hazards Campaign demand: The employers of workers who drive as part of their work, must include the risks of driving in their management of health and safety at work and report injuries under RIDDOR.

8. Asbestos
   Despite recent ban on importation and use, millions of tonnes of asbestos remain in buildings and the environment in the UK
   Hazards Campaign demand: The strictest possible enforcement of current Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 and other legislation to protect current workers and communities in the UK; a world wide ban on asbestos mining and manufacture of asbestos products, and an end to exports of asbestos to developing countries.

9. Globalisation
   Workers across the world have a common interest in their health, safety and welfare at work
   Hazards Campaign demand: Health and safety in the UK and worldwide must conform to the highest standards, not be diminished by market forces.

10. Environment
    What happens in workplaces can adversely affect the environment
    Hazards Campaign demand: The role and rights for any reps to act on issues relating to the environmental impact of their workplaces, locally and globally.

11. Workers Memorial Day
    Workers killed at work are not officially remembered and the causes of their deaths not formally acknowledged
    Hazards Campaign demand: The government officially recognise Workers Memorial Day on 28th April every year.

The expanded version of the Charter with details on each demand will be posted on the Hazards Campaign website shortly: www.hazardscampaign.org.uk
For a printed version contact the Hazards Campaign Secretariat to GMHC 23 New Mount Street, Manchester, M4 4RE. Telephone 0161 955 4350 or email:gmh@hazards.org.uk
Hazards Campaigning nationally

• On the Demands of the Hazards Charter for better health and safety for all workers, just compensation for those injured, a ban on all hazardous substances and practices
• On government policy
• For new laws/standards
• For better enforcement and inspection
• For more prosecutions of negligent employers
• For good independent health and safety services for all workers and local communities
Globally Work kills more than war every year: 2.3 million

"If terrorism took such a toll, just imagine what would be said and done." Jukka Takala, ILO.

USA: "No worker should have to sacrifice life, limbs or health to earn an honest day’s pay—not here in the United States, not in Bangladesh or anywhere else. Yet, corporations continue the push for profits, seeking to avoid regulation and oversight. They claim that stronger worker protections and enforcement kill profit, when the reality is that failure to act kills workers."
Statement from AFL-CIO president, Richard Trumka.

Kern Ward Jnr Charleston Gazette after Boston bomb, West Fertilizer plant explosion and Dhaka building collapse: “Terrorists want media attention, so we give it to them. Unsafe industries don’t want media attention- so we give that to them”

Unsafe and unhealthy workplaces are employers waging war & terrorism against workers, aided & abetted by governments
UK: Work still kills, injures & sickens

- Workforce of about 28 million, about 7 million TU members
  Hazards Campaign estimates per year:
- 1,400 killed in work-related incidents
- 50,000 dying of work illnesses (cancer - 18,000, heart disease - 20,000, lung & other diseases - 12,000)
- That’s 140 per day: 6 per hour
- About 2 million suffering work-related illness, 27 million working days lost to injury and illness
Massive cost of Bad Work

• Individual workers & families pain, suffering, heartache - immeasurable
• Public purse – health and support costs, lost revenue – over £30 billion per year
• Those individuals harmed pay 55%; state/public purse pays 24% and employers who cause the harm pay 22%.
• The burden is on US not on business!
Since 2010 Government driving health & safety backwards

Government attacks based on LIES:

- Health and Safety in Britain is one of best in world and very few people now hurt by modern work.
- Health and safety has gone mad, it’s over the top, over enforced, over bureaucratic, ’job killing red tape’, ‘an albatross’, ‘a millstone round employers necks’
- Majority of workplaces are ‘low hazard/risk’.
- Compensation culture is rife.
- H&S only common sense, no need for laws and enforcement, employers will ‘do the right thing’.
- Health and safety costs too much – ‘Burden on business’.

All Supported by “Loony libertarian, slash the state, shrink government” think tanks and most of the press/media who report it as health and safety gone mad, over the top, a joke.
WE DIDN'T VOTE TO DIE AT WORK

HAZARDS MAGAZINE
FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE
WWW.HAZARDS.ORG

THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTACK ON WORKPLACE SAFETY IS A DEADLY MISTAKE

STOP IT YOU'RE KILLING US.
WE DIDN'T VOTE TO DIE AT WORK
WWW.HAZARDS.ORG/VOTETODIE
What’s health & safety all about?

FACK KNOWS!
WE BEAR THE BURDEN

Want to know about burdens?

Grieving for a dead partner who never got to meet his son. Bringing up two children on your own. Working in a cafe but struggling to put food on the table.

They're burdens.

Making work safe and healthy isn't a burden on business. Join the We didn't vote to die at work campaign.

www.hazards.org/votedodie
SCREW YOU

Tony Hilly just says Greyling doesn’t like you.

He’s not our friend. The employment minister
has removed your safety protection. He’s denying
most-sick benefits. And he’s handing over policy
making to the employers and worker-business lobbyists.

That’s why campaigners want to stop him in his tracks.
Workers Memorial Day 28 April

Resources, Background, Safety Reps Guide to organising, statistics, individual stories, FACK statement, Ribbons, car stickers, lapel stickers, T-shirts, Leaflets, quiz. Press Releases, speakers,

Support.  www.gmhazards.org.uk
Exhibition at People’s History Museum and Scottish Parliament
Solidarity with Bangladesh Garment Workers!
Regulation don’t kill jobs: lack of Regulation kills workers!
Global Crisis of Enforcement

We thought regulation was so last year. But then people just kept dying.

It shouldn’t take a disaster before they act.

2012: Legionnaires’ disease
Two UK outbreaks, over 120 cases and five deaths. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) backtracked and introduced a comprehensive inspection programme.

2012: Record BP fine
The 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster killed 11 and smeared the Gulf of Mexico with oil. BP agreed a $4bn penalty. It’s paid tens of billions more in legal settlements.

From the Boeing Dreamliner groundings in the US, to Japan’s Fukushima nuclear power station meltdown, and the Pike River mine disaster in New Zealand, the problem was too little regulation.

It’s a global crisis of enforcement. And it comes at a high cost.

Action is better than reaction
Workers’ Memorial Day, 28 April
www.hazards.org/wmd
• Network of European Country Networks in Austria, Denmark (AAA), Germany, Italy, England & Wales, Scotland (UK Hazards Campaign), The Netherlands, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, plus individual contacts in other countries

• Steering Group meets 2 x a year, networks, campaigns around the EWMH Charter, occasional seminars on specific issues, e.g. Stress & Cancer, set up European campaigns

• Biennial conferences - next one 13th EMHN Conf 4-6th October, Bolgna Italy http://www.ewhn.eu/
European Union

- www.youtube.co/user/etuivideos/featured summary by ETUC of H&S conference March 2013
- EU = 27 countries, 503 million people
- 160,000 workers die from injuries & illness per year
- Workers exposed daily to threats to their mental and physical health, chemicals such as carcinogens, pesticides, solvents, plasticisers, EDCs that cause metabolic disease e.g. diabetes and obesity. Prenatal exposures cause these diseases in adulthood.
- H&S part of EU treaty but E Commission fails to present new strategy and continues with deregulation e.g. of REACH (chemicals) DSE (MSDs) and Psychosocial risks
- ETUC says the debt crisis should not be used as excuse to endanger lives of workers & a new H&S strategy must be immediately proposed.
We Remember Simon Pickvance - our comrade and fellow campaigner
A Better World is Possible

- UK Hazards Campaign pledges solidarity with workers, their families and communities all over the world
- Organise, educate, agitate and make work safe
- Work with you all on specific issues and the overall challenge to the neoliberal globalisation that enslaves us all.
Contact details

- UK Hazards Campaign [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk; info@hazardscampaign.org.uk] Hazards Campaign secretariat
- Face Book :We didn’t Vote to Die at Work; Alliance for Cancer Prevention www.acp.org.uk; Twitter @HildaPalmer #IWMD, #IWMD13, #WMD
- Hazards Magazine: [www.hazards.org; editor@hazards.org sub@hazards.org] Twitter @hazardsmagazine, FaceBook: Hazards Magazine; Workers Memorial Day 28 April
- Scottish Hazards Campaign: [http://www.scottishhazards.co.uk/]
- FACK Families Against Corporate Killers: [www.fack.org.uk, mail@gmhazards.org.uk; FaceBook: Families Against Corporate Killers
- Alliance for Cancer Prevention [www.acp.org.uk]
- Greater Manchester Hazards Centre : [www.gmhazards.org.uk]
- UK Work StressNetwork: [http://www.workstress.net/]
- EWHN: [http://www.ewhn.eu/]