



**UNIONS TARGET
WORKPLACE
CRIMINALS**

TURN THE FOCUS ON :

TUC GUIDE

Making employers accountable for workers' health and safety

What do we want?

The TUC and the Centre for Corporate Accountability launched a campaign at the beginning of 2002, with the support of victims' families, unions, safety campaigners and lawyers calling for:

- ◆ A new law on corporate killing;
- ◆ a substantial increase in the number of health and safety inspectors;
- ◆ giving union safety representatives the power to serve provisional improvement notices;
- ◆ the abolition of crown and Parliamentary immunity from prosecution under health and safety law;
- ◆ higher fines and more innovative penalties for breaches of health and safety law;
- ◆ courts to have the option of imprisoning company directors and managers convicted of any health and safety offence; and
- ◆ a tougher prosecution policy, particularly in relation to the conduct of directors.

Those demands will be central to the TUC's work on Workers' Memorial Day, 28 April 2003. Some ideas for campaigning are set out on the back of this pull-out.

The global trade union movement has decided to make corporate accountability for workers' health and safety the theme for International Workers' Memorial Day on 28 April 2003.

On the day when trade unionists around the world remember the people who have died because of their work, we are calling for those responsible to be held to account.

Called to account

The basis of health and safety law, in Britain and everywhere else, is that employers are responsible for the health and safety of their workforce and for anyone else affected by their activities, including temporary workers, agency workers, trainees and members of the public.

But that responsibility needs to be matched with accountability. When employers don't take the action they are required to – identifying the hazards, assessing the risks and taking action to protect their workers – they need to be held to account.

In Britain, we need tougher fines, more enforcement – and more enforcers! – and, ultimately, the sanction of jail for employers who break the law so badly that someone dies because of their negligence.

Corporate killing is just the tip of the iceberg of poor practice and failure to manage the risks. Every year, millions of workers in Britain are injured or made ill by their work.

28 April 2003 ◆ Workers' Memorial Day