



**UNIONS TARGET
WORKPLACE
CRIMINALS**

28 April 2003 things to do on Workers' Memorial Day

When trade unionists around the world remember the dead
and commit themselves to **fight for the living**

In 2003, the theme for Workers' Memorial Day is corporate accountability for workers' health and safety. That covers all employers – public, private and voluntary sector. It covers all workers – full-time permanent employees, temporary and agency workers, part-time workers, trainees and so on.

Workers' Memorial Day falls on a Monday in 2003, but the weekend before offers the opportunity for religious commemorations of all faiths.

Contact your local religious groups and encourage them to mark the deaths of workers locally that weekend, in churches, mosques, synagogues and other assemblies – and remember to contact industrial chaplains, hospital chaplains, prison chaplains.

On Monday, 28 April 2003, there are many things that trade unionists can do – the TUC's website contains a list of examples of activity in previous years that could be reproduced or built on.

Further information

TUC: TUC, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LS. Single copies of this 4-page WMD guide are available free from TUC. The TUC health and safety page has more news and resources:
www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/
TUC WMD page:
www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/index.cfm?mins=293

TUC Risks: The weekly TUC health and safety e-bulletin is free and will include updates on Workers' Memorial Day and links to resources. www.tuc.org.uk/risks

Hazards Campaign: The Hazards Campaign's online directory of groups, hazards centres, trades council safety sub-committees and work injury and disease support groups. The Hazards Campaign, c/o Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, 23 New Mount Street, Manchester M4 4DE. www.hazardscampaign.org.uk

Hazards: The Hazards union campaigns webpages contain ideas, posters, news and resources for Workers' Memorial Day, from the UK and worldwide. www.hazards.org/campaigns Hazards magazine, the award-winning union health and safety quarterly, will provide new resources for workplace health and safety action. TUC recommends Hazards as an essential resource for workplace safety reps. Hazards, PO Box 199, Sheffield, S1 4YL. Tel: 0114 267 8936. email: sub@hazards.org web: www.hazards.org

Your union: Check out your unions health and safety website. See the listing at: www.hazards.org/links

Additional single copies are available free from TUC. For bulk copies, contact Hazards.

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Here are some suggestions:

- ◆ Organise a meeting about health and safety, and corporate accountability in your branch or workplace, or a public meeting;
- ◆ hold an event like a tree planting ceremony, or dedicating a piece of public art or street furniture (like a park bench) to commemorate local deaths;
- ◆ organise a minute's silence at work, or even a safety reps' inspection of hazards in the workplace;
- ◆ distribute purple "forget-me-knot" ribbons for people to wear – available from the Greater Manchester Hazards Centre (see Hazards Campaign, left);
- ◆ persuade the local council or other local institutions to mark the day by lowering flags on their buildings as a mark of respect for the workplace dead; and
- ◆ do something different – these ideas are only a start, and the more innovative your ideas, the more likely they are to catch the imagination.

Whatever you decide to do, make sure that you:

- ◆ Tell the local media what you are doing and why;
- ◆ involve the families of local victims (but be sensitive – respect their needs and wants – many want to grieve in private);
- ◆ organise your activities well in advance, getting materials from your union or the TUC;
- ◆ involve your members – don't make it just something for the activists;
- ◆ tell your union and the TUC what you are planning, so we can help publicise it and tell other people about it.

