



# Hazardous Times

## Greater Manchester Hazards Centre E-Newsletter

March, 2018

Volume 3, Number 1

- In This Issue
- International Workers Memorial Day Events
  - Conference – Putting health and safety at the heart of decent jobs for all
  - Reps Issues and Concerns
  - Automation
  - FACK cases
  - Sexual Harassment – a trade union issue
  - The 28<sup>th</sup> National Hazards Conference
  - Grenfell Tower fire
  - Enough is Enough!
  - Trade Union Education

### Introduction

*Another Hazardous Times, another year! As we all settle into the new year, workers across the country are experiencing many hazardous working conditions. Snow from the East or as it is called in the media 'the beast from the east' has brought many dangers. Those who drive for a living are facing increasingly difficult driving conditions. Every day there are incidents on the roads leaving workers in massive queues of cars and exposed to life shortening diesel and petrol exhaust fumes. The year has started with a number of significant strike actions: UCU have been taking strike action across the HE sector about pensions and soon to be joined by FE colleges. I have always regarded my pension contributions as deferred wages. They are part of my living standards and as such will have a significant impact on my health and welfare when I retire. It is evident that workers level of pay makes a massive contribution to our longevity. McDonald workers are also gearing up to more industrial action. Their pay is undermined by zero hours contracts. Precarious contracts means workers are unable to plan where to live, when to eat and what to spend their money on. They don't get paid if they cant work because of sickness. They feel they are beholden to their employer for work and that if they challenge them over unfair treatment or unsafe working practices they are at risk of not being scheduled for work. We need health and safety laws to be enforced, we need reps to have the ability and opportunity to report their employers to enforcement officers when they act unlawfully and put peoples health and safety at risk and we need enforcement officers to commit to acting on these reports up with amongst other things, unannounced inspections and prosecutions. Noone should be made ill, injured or killed at work!*

### International Workers Memorial Day Events across the North West – April 28<sup>th</sup> #IWMD18

On Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> April there are events taking place across the world to commemorate International Workers Memorial Day. In the North West there will be events in Liverpool, Manchester, Preston, Chorley, Blackburn, Bolton, Salford and others and in many workplaces.

**Manchester** we will be meeting at Albert Square at 12.00 to listen to speakers including Angela Raynor MP, Kevan Nelson Unison, Les Skarrats FBU, there will be reading out of names of people who have died at work, a FACK speaker and a speaker from Asbestos victims support, music by Claire Moony and an exhibition at the Peoples History Museum. Chaired by Mick Whelan ASLEF Gen Sec.

**Chorley** Workers Memorial Day Chorley- meet at the Park Gates , Park Road, Chorley on April 27th at 17:45 for a memorial service at the Unite WMD tree planted in Astley Park. Speakers and procession lead by a Piper, banners welcome. Contact Steve on 07720671202  
Steven. [Turner2@unitetheunion.org](mailto:Turner2@unitetheunion.org)

**Preston** there will be an event on the flag market at 12.00 with the Mayor, a piper, speakers from CWU, Chris Lomax Unison, Ian Hodson President of BFAWU, Lynn Wallace PCS and Sadiq Vohra a solicitor from Slater & Gordons and a banner march to the peace gardens to lay wreaths followed by hotpot at the Blackhorse

**Bolton** there will be an event on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Meeting at the Hub at 11.00 with a march to Victoria Square for a ceremony at 11.30 – 12.30

**Mersey Trade Union Education Department** are celebrating 40 years of SRSC Regs on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 10-11.30am – 0151 237 2750 for more details

**Blackburn** –Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 12 noon at WMD tree, Northgate/Sudell Cross, Blackburn

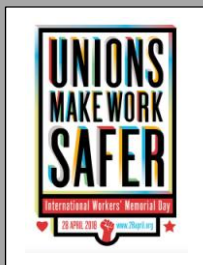
**Salford** - 1.00pm Agecroft memorial, Agecroft Rd., Salford **TBC**

**Wigan** – Mesne Park at the WMD Tree 11.45 – 12.00 **TBC**

**Salford CC** –Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 12.00 at WMD tree at Civic Centre **TBC**

**Liverpool** – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 11.30 – 11.50 North Piazza, Georges Dock Bld, Pier Head L3 1DD (Dock Rd bottom of James Street) Wreath laying and piper and another event at the UCATT memorial.

The theme of this years #IWMD18 is 'Union workplaces are safer workplaces'. For information about resources including hi-vis vests, posters, car stickers, ribbons and labels which are available to purchase. See [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/resources](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/resources) for more information.





## Conference – Putting Health and Safety at the of decent jobs for all!

With a great line up of speakers this conference will discuss why workers are vulnerable at work and what we should be demanding from health and safety enforcement and if we need new legislation or changes to existing legislation and what action workers have taken to improve their working conditions. We will be hearing from workers who have experienced unsafe working conditions and what they have done to challenge their employers.

**Joan McNulty** Unison representative supporting care workers facing violence

**Audrey White** Unite activist and leader of strike about shop workers sexual harassment

**McStriker** BFAWU what its like working in the fast food sector

**Neil Hope-Collins** Prospect discussing how enforcement can work?

**Phil Liptrott** – Thompsons Solicitors on defending workers in court

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm at Thompson Solicitors, 55 Kings Street email [janet@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:janet@gmhazards.org.uk) to attend

### Reps Issues and Concerns:

**Workers being told they had to turn up for work in horrendous, dangerous travelling conditions or they would be dismissed during recent 'Beast from East!' snow storms and official red and amber weather warning.**

**Unmanageable workloads – stress balls or balls to stress!**

**PC use and RSI –**

**Bullying by head teachers and workload causing stress and anxiety**

**Drugs and Alcohol Testing**

**Modern day Slavery**

**Domestic abuse and Work**

**Dog attacks on delivery drivers**

**Sexual Harassment**

These are just some of the issues being talked about by health and safety reps at meetings and training courses. Some of which will be explored in more detail below.

### Automation

Industry 4.0 is the next revolution in work. Automation is nothing new, in some cases in the past it has led to an increase in the workforce. During the 90's the 35 hour week was an attempt to force employers to reduce the working week at no loss in wages whilst maintaining the staffing levels. This campaign found some success, but with a neoliberal agenda and Government after Government hell bent on allowing an unshackled free market and free movement of capital, then workers rights, and employment were left high and dry. Outsourcing became common place in the private and public sector, public sector jobs sold to the lowest bidder and along with them the services and support they delivered, redundancies, restructuring and companies closing down became the norm and now the so called 'gig' economy bringing zero hour, precarious contracts and little job security or enforcement of legal rights and duties. Against this backdrop automation brings more challenges.

There is a forcast being made that although the current wave of automation may introduce some new jobs, this time between 35 and 42% of workers will be made redundant. There are more than 650,000 jobs at risk and these are in different sectors and different jobs. Jobs that are done more cheaply by workers will remain for the time being and any job that requires empathy is safe at the moment, however there are lots of occupations at risk. UNITE are taking up the cudgel and challenging the Government and employers to make decisions not just on what is possible to automate but on what is morally right. They are actively seeking agreements with employers and they also recognise the need for political solutions which result in things like shorter working weeks, a new retirement policy and the numbers of workers needed to do the job from a workers perspective. Some unions are considering the introduction of a universal minimum income as the solution.

So what is the impact on health and safety? You might be forgiven for thinking that it will remove the more dangerous and dirty work and it could be used to make work safer and cleaner. That should be true if it were being done in support of our communities and society, however if it is done in the name of increasing profit then this is unlikely to happen.

Any introduction of new procedures, new equipment, changes to workload, workforce etc should first prompt a consultation between the employer and the health and safety reps. Then details of proposed changes can be discussed and risk assessments started to look at the risks of any changes.

Then as with any risk assessments control measures should be examined to at first eliminate the risks, then if that is not possible to control them down so that they don't harm. This is not just physical harm risks but also mental harm. Reps should be ensuring their employer looks at all the potential harms including stress, noise, dusts, substances, bacteria, repetitive working, fatigue, shifts, night work, vibrations, the way work is organised, harassment, bullying, staffing levels, gender



issues, lone working, disabilities. Reps need to examine how work is going to be organised, by how many workers, the length of working time, breaks, when work will take place. If there will be any impact on musculoskeletal problems and stress levels and any impact on existing agreements and policies. Health and Safety reps should be given the time to carry out their responsibilities and role.

## FAK cases

We supported the mother of Cyran Stewart who died after a crush incident in a lift at a Walkabout pub in Swansea. The inquest was originally set for 4 weeks and we struggled to find free legal representation for that length of time. The case was complicated by the fact that Cyran's brother Gavin was a deputy manager at Walkabout at the time. The inquest jury concluded that Cyran's death was accidental <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/fack-comment-on-the-accidental-death-conclusion-by-jury-at-the-inquest-into-the-death-of-cyran-justin-stewart>

Cyran Stewart was fatally injured at a Walkabout pub in Swansea on 24th February 2014. He was crushed in a lift while transporting very outdoor furniture. The heavy wooden stools and chairs almost filled the lift and the load shifted when it caught on the lift shaft due to the safety door being left open. Cyran was crushed against the side of the lift, and could not move, because the lift was stuck between floors, it took 30 minutes to rescue him. He died of his injuries four days later in hospital. The inquest heard evidence that other members of staff had been trapped in the lift in similar ways when transporting furniture with the safety gate mechanism over ridden before Cyran was killed, but were not injured and these incidents were not reported to the health and safety consultants or head office. Intertain CEO gave evidence that he was shocked and knew nothing of these incidents or lift problems when moving furniture.

Cyran Stewart's mother Elizabeth Galbraith said in her statement after the Inquest Conclusion:

*"I feel totally disillusioned by the Inquest System. It took 4 years to get this far and I had to sit in that Inquest and hear witness after witness have the statements they made 4 years ago discredited because they could not now remember facts without referring to their statement.*

*My son Cyran did not die in a freak accident that could not be foreseen or prevented, but in an incident similar to several others that had previously occurred and about which I believe management and supervisors were aware. We heard evidence that the Walkabout management team failed to report numerous incidents involving staff being stuck in the lift to Perry Scott Nash, their Health and Safety consultants. I believe they knew what was going on but did not report it or take any action. Had they done so, I believe that action could have been taken to prevent my son from being in that situation in the first place and prevented his death.*

*Following the death of my son, that action has now been taken. It will prevent further deaths but it will never bring Cyran back.*

*Those responsible for Cyran's health and safety while he was at work, but who failed to protect him can now go home and carry on with their lives. I cannot, my life has been totally destroyed and the closeness of my family has been pulled apart.*

*My son died as innocent as the day he was born, I will never see him get married or have children, I have been denied that pleasure."*

Hilda Palmer FACK spokesperson said: *" No-one should ever die just for going to work which is why we have health and safety laws to protect workers which include assessing risks, developing safe systems of work, instructing, training and supervising workers to make sure they follow these safe systems properly, reporting incidents, injuries and near misses, so as to take preventative action. Cyran was not killed in a freak, unforeseeable and unpreventable accident. According to evidence at the inquest he died after several other 'near miss' incidents where workers and supervisors were also trapped in the lift and had to be rescued. Appropriate reports of these dangerous incidents were not made, the health and safety consultants and CEO were apparently unaware, and so preventative action was not taken - until after Cyran was killed.*

*Yet again we hear of a case where something has gone wrong, a worker is killed and his family devastated, forever. Workers should not die before lessons are learnt. The legal duty is clear and we call on all employers everywhere to face up to, and review, your health and safety management and take urgent action to stop your work from killing or hurting anyone. The Inquest is only concerned with who died, when, where and how, and any other matters are for the health and safety investigation to consider. For Cyran's mother we hope now for a swift decision on a prosecution of those responsible for protecting Cyran's safety at work and will be discussing this with Swansea City Council"*

FAK's work depends on the sponsorship of some solicitors firms, and also the generosity of trade union branches, some families and the sale of Workers Memorial Day Purple Forget-me-knot ribbons We would like to thank all our loyal and continued sponsors and particularly GMB Kings Lynn Branch No1 who donated in memory of the work we did with Mark Seward's family, and Robert Wyer, son in-law of Raymond Holmes, killed at Thames Water, Walthamstow in 2010, who raised £585.75 as sponsorship for a marathon which he was unable to complete due to injury.

To donate to support FAK's work please contact [mail@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:mail@gmhazards.org.uk)

## Sexual Harassment – A health and safety issue!

Sexual Harassment is not an innocent act. It is not 'banter'. It is not 'fun' or 'welcome'. It is an unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, which 'violates a person's dignity' or 'creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment'. Sexual Harassment is expressly outlawed by section 26(2) of the Equality Act 2010.

The conduct includes inappropriate touching, sexualised comments and jokes, downloading or displaying sexual or pornographic images, treating someone less favourably because they rejected sexual advances etc.

The health consequences for the individual can lead to long term, serious physical and mental ill health. <http://www.hazards.org/violence/notok.htm>

We have had the Equality Act in since 2010, and other discrimination legislation before that. However, as we have seen in the news there are still workplaces where it is thought of as an acceptable way to treat people and it is not so surprising when we witness some of our elected representatives in parliament, acting in such a disgusting way.

Trade Unions for many years, have negotiated and supported the introduction of work place policies and procedures, which clearly explain what acceptable behaviour is and what will not be tolerated.

The latest Hazards Magazine reports on <http://www.hazards.org/violence/notok.htm> As the Hazards Magazine article says 'sexual harassment is an everyday fact of working life for many women' and 'most cases go unreported'.

It is an act of 'violence and power', it is unacceptable, it is against the law and it should not be tolerated! The HSE have a booklet on preventing workplace harassment and violence, which explains the employer's duties to protect the health, safety and welfare of their employees.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/v.../preventing-workplace-harassment.pdf>

If anyone is experiencing sexual harassment at work then in the first place they should contact their workplace trade union representative or their full time trade union officer.

If this is not possible then contact Janet at [janet@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:janet@gmhazards.org.uk) or 0161 636 7558

## The 28<sup>th</sup> National Hazards Conference

The Hazards conference continues to be the largest conference in the UK and Europe for trade union health and safety representatives. This year it is taking place on July 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> at Keele University. We have an exciting and packed agenda with speakers and activists from different trade unions, international and national speakers, academics, campaigners and experts on health and safety attending to run meetings, share knowledge and skills and support and train health and safety reps. Read the report of last years conference on the Hazards Website to get a flavour of what you are going to experience. Many reps came for the first time last year and it was an opportunity for many to start their training as health and safety reps. The conference offers 18 workshops to choose from, there are four different specialist meetings and there will also be campaign meetings to attend. Plenary sessions will set the scene and send attendees back to their workplaces inspired and ready for action.

A booking form can be downloaded at: <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/hazards-conference-2018-booking-form>

If your branch is able to sponsor the event please download a sponsorship form at: <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/hazards-conference-2018-sponsorship-appeal>

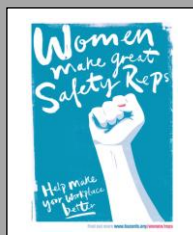
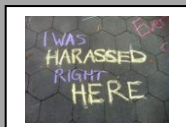
Encourage as many health and safety reps from your organisation to attend as possible, it really is a useful and unique experience!

## Grenfell Tower Fire 14.6.17: 9 months on what progress?

On the 14th of every month a silent march is held in the shadow of Grenfell Tower. Survivors, local residents and supporters gather to march silently carrying green ribbons, candles, and their grief to keep alive the memories of those who died and whose whole lives have been devastated, and to keep the causes of the fire and their demands for justice on the public agenda. The FBU marches with them every month, maintaining their commitment to stand with the Grenfell dead and survivors to get as much justice as possible and to stop this ever happening again.

In Manchester on 14th February on a cold wet night, Greater Manchester Hazards Centre joined hundreds of people from Greater Manchester in a very moving march, carrying the 71 photos of those who were killed to hear speakers from Grenfell and local trade unionists and activists. They called for continued support, for organisation of memorial events on the 14th of June to mark the first anniversary in towns and cities across the UK. The Greater Manchester Association of Trades Councils which organised the march pledged to do this, and Merseyside is planning a march on 14th March. <http://www.salfordstar.com/article.asp?id=4334>

<https://grenfellactiongroup.wordpress.com/2018/02/12/london-manchester-joint-silent-march/>



Sadly since then the official death toll has risen to 72 after the death of Maria Del Pilar Burton, known as Pily, who spent seven months in hospital after escaping the fire with her husband Nick.

GMHC, FACK and the Hazards Campaign are speaking on platforms to make the links between what happened at Grenfell and the undermining of social protections at work, at home, in products, food and environmental safety. We are keeping abreast of developments and intervening where appropriate to support Grenfell families to gain justice, to stop this happening ever again, to ensure combustible cladding on all high rise buildings across the country is safely replaced and government pays up, keeping pressure on government for a good Public Inquiry and a thorough an the Review of Building Regulations to put fire safety first and continuing our 'Make Grenfell the 'Enough is Enough moment and a halt to cuts in laws that are social protections and their enforcement  
<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/postcard>

We tried but failed to get the terms of reference of the Public Inquiry widened to include policy makers and deregulation, and to be core participants but we support all those involved and provide information and arguments that can help wherever appropriate. We urged the police investigation to consider wider policy and regulatory issues but were of course rebuffed and told this was outside of the criminal investigation but we shall persist. We have made criticism of the interim report of Judith Hackitt's review into the Building Regulations. While we welcome her inevitable acceptance that the regulations are not fit for purpose, "Dame Judith's refusal to acknowledge the role of industry lobbyists leads her to suggest a shift away from government to the very industry which helped to create this deadly situation." Dame Judith oversaw the deregulation and enforcement cuts at the HSE.

A debate in Parliament on 6th March heard that 800 blocks across the country- 300 social housing council-owned and 500 privately owned- are affected by flammable cladding and it is only 3 council-owned blocks that have been reclad, reported in the Salford Star  
<http://www.salfordstar.com/article.asp?id=4393>. We argue that it is the government's responsibility to remove the cladding and replace it with safer materials because is their flawed regulatory system that permitted the mistake in the first place. While tenants in social housing are not having the cost passed onto them directly, those living in private flats, lease holders, are in a battle with the freeholders who own the buildings, developers, managing agents and insurance companies, who want to charge them for temporary and permanent fire safety measures often totalling £tens of thousands.

Inside Housing 9/3/2018 reported that in Greater Manchester according to the Fire and Rescue Service, GMFRS, three quarters of Manchester high rises require fire safety action; only 117 out of 489 Greater Manchester high rises were found to comply with fire regulations; only 27% of Manchester social housing high rises and 22% of private high rises were compliant with fire safety rules. Notifications of deficiencies were issued for 26 social housing blocks and 40 private blocks.

Jim Hutton, head of protection at GMFRS said "*Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, GMFRS took swift action to reassure local residents and take steps to ensure their homes are safe. This has involved GMFRS proactively inspecting every high rise residential building in Greater Manchester, working with housing providers, local authorities and buildings in private ownership to make sure the right fire safety advice is in place. Where issues have been identified, landlords and building owners have worked with GMFRS to put in place a plan to address these, GMFRS is now revisiting residential high-rise buildings where interim measures and action plans are in place and providing support on decision making regarding any remedial work.*"

Phil Murphy, a former firefighter who lives in a tower block owned by Trafford Housing Trust and who obtained the data via Freedom of Information request, called for the reports on individual blocks to be made public. In Salford the Council has borrowed £25 million to loan to 'Pendleton Together' who are responsible for replacing the combustible cladding on 9 blocks in Pendleton.

We want to include remembering the Grenfell dead and the reasons for their deaths, their 'social murder', due to the failure of the state to ensure their protection via the regulation and enforcement of the behaviour of commercial bodies, as part of our International Workers Memorial Day events across the UK. Contact us for resources and information.

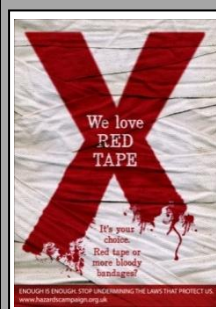


## Enough is Enough! It's your choice: Red tape or more bloody bandages?

Support the Hazards Campaign call to make Grenfell tower fire the 'Enough is enough moment', to end the undermining of health and safety, and to send an ecard to the Prime Minister to let her know ' We love red tape because it's better than bloody bandages ' or burned bodies

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/epostcard>

At the Hazards Conference a postcard campaign was launched. If you would like paper postcards, they can be obtained from the address at the end of the newsletter (however, postage will need to be paid). Alternatively support our epostcard campaign using the website address [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/postcard](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/postcard) (10,000 have already been sent)



Dear Prime Minister

When you tear up critical fire, building, product, environmental and workplace safety laws you are not removing red tape - you are removing the protection necessary to keep us safe.

The Grenfell Tower fire is one shocking example of the consequences of your government's 'bonfire of health and safety regulations'.

Enough is enough. Stop undermining safety laws at work, in our homes and our communities - instead keep, improve, enforce and uphold the laws that protect us.

Yours sincerely

HAZARDS CAMPAIGN - because we didn't vote to die. [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk)



Prime Minister Theresa May  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

## WE LOVE RED TAPE – EPOSTCARD CAMPAIGN

**Send the prime minister this new 2017 Hazards Campaign ePostcard.**

*"The Grenfell Tower fire is one shocking example of the consequences of your government's 'bonfire of health and safety regulations'."*

*"Enough is enough. Stop undermining the laws that protect us."*

## Trade Union Education

Trade Union Health and Safety courses continue to be run at Stockport, Warrington, Liverpool, Blackburn, Burnley, Preston and Manchester by local Trade Union Education Units at various colleges. A full list of the courses available for each term can be found at:

<https://www.tuceducation.org.uk/findacourse/>

It is also worth noting that if any workplace or trade union would like a bespoke course developing then the trade union education units are able to deliver courses on all sorts of issues and also they are now not tied to a particular number of days or hours (only more than 2 or 3).

## Air Pollution - A trade union issue!

Together with the Greener Jobs Alliance the Hazards Campaign has delivered three fantastic training sessions in Manchester, Leeds and London on 'Air Pollution – a trade union issue!' The sessions have been well received and are leading to workers from different occupations negotiating agreements with their employers on reducing workers exposure to air pollutants and to reducing the amount of air pollution being caused by work in their communities.

The speakers delivering the training are Colin Potter a transport researcher with Unite, Hilda Palmer a Hazard Campaign activist and Graham Petersen from Greener Jobs Alliance. Air quality in cities across the UK, and the world is causing concern as the 'invisible killer' and is now estimated to kill 40,000 people in the UK every year and 7-9 million worldwide. Most of this is from traffic pollution and diesel emissions especially and consists of fumes and particles causing respiratory illnesses, heart disease, lung cancer and many more serious health problems. It affects all of us in our communities, in schools, travelling to and from work, and at work whether we work indoors or outdoors. We need to link taking action against external air pollution with the action we already take against substances in the workplace. We must use the SRSC (Safety Reps and Safety committees) regulations to the full to ensure that workers health, safety and welfare concerns are raised and dealt with and that the COSHH regulations fully complied with. This means safety reps involvement in good risk assessments and making sure employers eliminate any risk of exposure of substances harmful to health or control them, with PPE only as last resort.

At the end of the sessions a list of actions is shared for attendees to take back to their workplaces, trade unions and communities.

At the Manchester Training event the following actions were identified:

1. The need to raise awareness of the issues involved in air pollution, through training, publicity etc.
2. Air pollution needs to be included on existing trade union health and safety courses.
3. Reps should review sickness absence trends and monitor and act on any changes, identify workers at risk.
4. Raise issue on Safety Committees.
5. Encourage Unite members to complete diesel registers.
6. All reps and members should be encouraged to complete Greener Jobs Alliance online training at [http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page\\_id=31](http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page_id=31)
7. Carry out citizen science using tubes available where appropriate – contact [janet@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:janet@gmhazards.org.uk) for more information and any results will be followed up at a future North West TUC/GMHC Safety reps network meeting
8. Publicise the information available in newsletters, on noticeboards and social media etc.
9. Trade Union Education units to develop further training across the North West to support air pollution training needs and embed GJA information on existing courses.
10. Trade Unions reps need to get involved in local politics to raise concerns and get action to reduce air pollution
11. Support local campaigning and online campaigning on anti-fracking, and air quality
12. Start campaign / on-line petition ref reducing and removing diesel fumes in train stations
13. Reps to demand access to management plan/safety for any asbestos/building demolition or building work.
14. Contact management for any air pollution policies
15. Request reports from facilities management on air con servicing schedules and maintenance.
16. Open up discussions with university/management environment teams.
17. Investigate GMAQALP, low carbon hub
18. Make health and safety reps aware of air pollution through branch newsletter
19. Contact local councillors and MP's about air pollution
20. Promote Greener Jobs Alliance course at branch and trades council.
21. Get LA's to put clauses in planning permissions of large developments for money to be provided for monitoring – Section 106 town country planning act
22. Take to National and Regional disabled committee for strategy in Union.
23. As part of strategy to reduce air pollution, demand LA's produce and publish air quality maps with regular updates to show improvements and dangers.
24. Actions to be reviewed at future North West TUC / GMHC Safety Reps network meetings
25. Pete Abel of Friends of the Earth provided Link below to the Greater Manchester Local authority and citizen science google map: <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/@53.4980493,-2.4866198,10z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!6m1!1s14R3SOBXd2WtKVNNWsbttH-ZBXs?hl=en>



Following this session:

A Unite branch in Lancashire has purchased an air pollution monitor for their members to monitor their exposure when they are working on the roads. A CWU activist is attempting to get policy change through motions to their next national policy conference. Another is reviewing an existing policy to ensure it is preventing ill health of workers and the community.

There are many actions that can be taken to challenge this in the workplace and GMHC will be producing a fact sheet in the near future.

There will be more training sessions organised across the country and hopefully another towards the West of our region. Information will be circulated when it is available.

### **International Womens Day March 8th**

At the heart of the campaigns across the world, women are fighting for improvements in our health, safety, welfare and the environment against a lack of understanding, research and action on our health and safety, plus false myths that women's work is 'light' 'easy' and 'safe'. It's not true! Women frequently lift heavier loads than men, work longer hours for less pay, face violence, sexual harassment, work alone and face greater health risks from stress and chemicals.

Women :

- Continue to be exposed to chemicals and toxins that damage their reproductive organs and damage their unborn children
- Are exposed to carcinogens which result in breast and other cancers.
- Are put at risk of developing cancer by substances like asbestos and silica, through washing their partners work clothes.
- Are provided with PPE designed for men, which does not protect them and is often an added burden because it doesn't fit properly.
- Are put at risk because their physiology and anatomy is not considered when jobs and equipment are designed.
- Suffer from many musculoskeletal hazards because of the jobs they do: sitting for long periods at desks, lifting heavy bodies and products, and repetitive functions often at poorly designed equipment and work-stations
- Face the added burden of being subjected to sexual harassment, violent attacks and even rape
- Are employed in jobs that are often low paid, where they have to work long hours, shift work and subjected to huge exploitation which causes high blood pressure, mental stress and cancer.  
[www.hazards.org/cancer/graveyardshift.htm](http://www.hazards.org/cancer/graveyardshift.htm)
- Some women in developing countries work in appalling, dangerous conditions which expose them to serious injury, illness and death
- In addition to their paid work outside the home, women are still responsible for most of the family caring responsibilities and housework and so do a double shift and often experience the same risks twice as long.

Good health, safety and welfare in our workplaces, relies on strong trade unions, with active health and safety representatives, a management committed to ensuring that risk assessments are sex and gender sensitive, so that workplaces are safe and healthy for us all. We need good laws that support and protect us at work, in our communities, and strong enforcement of those laws.

*Links: TUC Gender sensitive H&S checklist: <https://www.tuc.org.uk/equality-issues/gender-equality/workplace-issues/health-and-safety/tuc-gender-and-occupational> and Hazards Magazine on women safety reps <http://www.hazards.org/women/reps/>*

### **Greater Manchester Hazards Centre and other links:**

Address:

Windrush Millennium Centre,  
70 Alexandra Rd, Manchester M16 7WD

Tel: 0161 636 7557/ 7558

E-Mail: [mail@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:mail@gmhazards.org.uk) or [janet@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:janet@gmhazards.org.uk)

*Our website needs to be revamped! – [www.gmhazards.org.uk](http://www.gmhazards.org.uk) – if you have the skills or want to get involved in supporting us please contact us.*

Other Links:

*Facebook: We didn't Vote to Die at Work; Families Against Corporate Killers; Hazards Magazine; and new **Greater Manchester Hazards Centre***

*Twitter: @jnewsham; @hazardscampaign; @HildaPalmer; @hazardsmagazine; @hazardseitor*

*HSE: [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)*



TUC Risks:

[https://www.tuc.org.uk/news?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=Risks&field\\_region=All&field\\_news\\_type=2](https://www.tuc.org.uk/news?search_api_views_fulltext=Risks&field_region=All&field_news_type=2)

Breast Cancer campaigning organization for primary prevention:

<http://www.frompinktoprevention.org/>

Cancer campaigning organization for prevention of environmental and occupational risk factors:

<http://allianceforcancerprevention.org.uk/>

Greater Manchester Asbestos Victims Support Group: [www.asbestos-victims-support.org](http://www.asbestos-victims-support.org)

Hazards Magazine: [www.hazards.org](http://www.hazards.org)



**LET'S FACE IT...**  
Trade Union Health and Safety Representatives keep us all safer at work!

**UNION WORKPLACES ARE SAFER WORKPLACES!**

**HAZARDS CAMPAIGN**  
[hazardscampaign.org.uk](http://hazardscampaign.org.uk)  
#IWMD18

**INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY**  
28 April 2018 | #IWMD18

Contact the Hazards Campaign to order your purple ribbons, stickers, purple hi-vis vests, car stickers, statistics and posters.  
Tel: 0161 636 7558  
Email: [info@hazardscampaign.org.uk](mailto:info@hazardscampaign.org.uk)  
[www.hazardscampaign.org.uk](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk)

Remember the dead. Fight for the Living.

**UNIONS  
MAKE WORK  
SAFER**

International Workers' Memorial Day

[www.hazardscampaign.org.uk](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk) ★ [www.28april.org](http://www.28april.org)

HAZARDS CAMPAIGN

**tyred**

**#oldtyreskill**

Join the tyred campaign  
[@tyreduk](https://www.tyred.org.uk) | [tyred.org.uk](http://tyred.org.uk)

f t i