

Comments from Chat box at the Hazards Campaign Thursday talk - 24.9.20

- Twitter @hazardscampaign. Please follow us for up to date info.
- See also our website with documents and Press Statements www.hazardscampaign.org.uk
- See also the vital Hazards magazine - www.hazards.org
- Great to welcome all speakers @stevereicher
- @shellyasquith
- @RLong_Bailey
- @uniteHandS Rob Miguel
- <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/>
- <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/the-uk-government-response-is-like-a-car-skidding-uncontrollably-towards-a-brick-wall>
- @independentsage
- Joint Hazards Campaign and Independent Sage Meeting <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/new-release-hazards-campaign-and-independent-sage-call-for-no-workers-to-return-to-workplaces-unless-covid-safety-plans-are-in-place>
- The joint report and Workplace Charter <https://www.independentsage.org/the-covid-19-safe-workplace-charter-and-briefing-document-on-ending-work-lockdowns-in-gb/>
- TUC Courses for Autumn Term - from 12th October onward. Stockport College
- Agreed, using HSE data, "The statistically average employer can expect to see an inspector once every 275 years" <https://www.ier.org.uk/comments/in-search-of-the-covid-secure-workplace/>
- Surely it is local authorities who are the enforcement agencies in most hospitality workplaces. Environmental health services in LAs could be mobilised to certify workplaces?
- see also Hazards Magazine Exposed <http://www.hazards.org/infections/exposed.htm>
- Ideally yes but LA Environment Health Depts have suffered even more serious cuts than HSE over last 10 years
- Face it inequality sickens us all <http://www.hazards.org/vulnerableworkers/ituc28april.htm>
- Hazards Magazine class war issue <http://www.hazards.org/gallery/classwar.htm>
- Local authorities even more cuts in funding and staff than HSE. less than 550 EHOs across country... 390 HSE fte HSE inspectors. Often people use HSE as term to include LAs
- Our report demanded more funding for both HSE and LS but realise that 10 years of austerity cuts cannot be reversed overnight. Please read it and use it in your union.
- Some of the results from the TUC poll here: <https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/many-uk-workplaces-still-not-covid-secure-tuc-poll-reveals>
- See Hazards Charter for our long term demands <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/nine-demands-for-organising-around-safety-hazards-campaign-discussion-document>
- Unite's survey here: From Crisis to Change: Coming out of COVID-19 A report on a survey of Unite Workplace Representatives
- See our last Hazards Campaign talk for all of this, Face covering ARE NOT Workers PPE. <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/video-and-resources-is-two-metre-physical-distancing-enough-aerosol-transmission-and-other-emerging-issues>
- The Report <https://www.independentsage.org/the-covid-19-safe-workplace-charter-and-briefing-document-on-ending-work-lockdowns-in-gb/>
- <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/hazardsmanifesto2019.pdf>
- Safety Reps must have right to Impose PINS and to Stop the JOB.
- Very good explanation of the science of masks and what constitutes a good quality, reliable mask, from experts at Colorado University. Suggest TUs, maybe TUC reviews this and agrees on design and mass produce. <https://www.gotostage.com/channel/7f1ac375a0644c66b1e90989400d4eed/recording/eee0f741c9d74ef2b6d4aa76baaff811/watch>
- Institute of Employment Rights very happy to be joining with Hazards on a zoom on 29th September to discuss failure of enforcement agencies to monitor and enforce H&S regs during Covid. Join us if you can <https://www.ier.org.uk/events/whos-regulating-the-regulators/>
- Hazards Campaign called for certified standard of face coverings , supply, distribution etc from beginning of pandemic,

- People should also read the Hazards Campaign Manifesto from 2019
<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/manifesto>
- <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/hazards-campaign-we-go-back-to-work-safely-or-not-at-all>
- link to IER's Manifesto material is here <https://www.ier.org.uk/manifesto/successes/the-manifesto-for-labour-law-and-the-labour-party/> and here <https://www.ier.org.uk/product/manifesto-labour-law-towards-comprehensive-revision-workers-rights/>
- HSE taking back seat to PHE has been an absolute abdication and they have been awol throughout the Pandemic, <http://www.hazards.org/coronavirus/abdication.htm>
- Unison's recruitment drive for H&S reps has been great
- I think the points made about roving safety reps, and funding environmental health to sign of work places, including care home, offices and hospitality where they already have statutory responsibility. It would be great if some Labour or Coalition controlled councils would step up to take this forward more actively. Thanks to the speakers I think there are reasons to be hopeful.
- Be on the safe side is great!
- Indeed. We need more HSRs - young, BAME, women, disabled etc
- all the courses are taking place online (for now): <https://www.tuc.org.uk/TUCcourses>
- It's very important that we do "spread the news" - lots of new reps coming through, and we need to turn them into hardened activists and Hazards subscribers! 8-)
- Subscribe to Hazards Magazine -its a great activist magazine for Safety Reps with resources and info and great inspiration www.hazards.org/subscribe
- we need to get away from this thing that you have to be an expert in H&S to be a TU H&S Rep. Emphasis must be that it is just another rep role. H&S is such a broad area - everything in the workplace is potentially a H&S issue Build the rep team in the workplace!
- Tories were saying go back to work and 'have a conversation with your employer' and if not happy call in the HSE! As if! Too many employers not listening - H&S protections often the first to be cut by bad employers. HSE starved of resources and increasingly ideologically too closely bound to government. Its up to us collectively as so many have said. Well done Hazards and all you speakers. Very inspiring as you say.x
- We need more reps from all groups woman, young, black, Asian and other ethnicities, disabled, workers
- Janet featured in a great session we did on getting more Women recruited to the H&S rep role, alongside some excellent women H&S reps and we discussed need for more Black, young reps too.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfeEXZLe6es>
- Safety Reps are not experts! the Representative role is what makes the difference. And Hazards Campaign work hard to encourage all people esp, to get more involved and become safety reps
- A colleague said to me the slogan seems to be the rule of 6 applies unless you are within 2 metres of cash till
- However, with the TUC and union training, HSRs ARE experts compared to their managers!