

HAZARDS CAMPAIGN

International Workers Memorial Day

Safe and Healthy Work is a Fundamental Right



Every year on 28 April all over the world, trade unions, workers, and families hold remembrance events to mark International Workers Memorial Day because work continues to kill millions globally every year, and over 50,000 in this country, 140 a day before the pandemic arrived to make things worse.

The ITUC and its affiliates are calling on governments to take action by:

- ratifying and implementing core ILO health and safety conventions;
- ratifying and implementing all sectoral or hazard-specific conventions;
- establishing national health and safety bodies bringing unions and employer representatives together;
- requiring occupational health services for all, and proper compensation including making Covid-19 a recognised occupational disease.

<https://www.ituc-csi.org/International-Workers-Memorial-Day-2022>

According to latest Global estimates 2021 there are 2.9 million deaths every year by occupational accidents and diseases and that increases to 2.96 when Covid-19 deaths in 2020 are included. The ILO estimate that Up to 180,000 health workers may have died from Covid-19 globally up to October 2021.

In the UK thousands of workers have died from Covid-19 and we will never know the true number because many of them weren't tested, hospitalised or recorded and reported as work related infections and deaths. The vast majority of them will never be investigated as a work related infection or death.

In May 2021 the TUC recorded its concerns regarding under-reporting of Covid-19 work-related incidents using RIDDOR. RIDDOR is the mechanism which regulates employers' obligation to report deaths, injuries and illness as well as 'dangerous occurrences' that take place at work or in connection with work. Out of the 93,000 estimated number of

workers suffering from Covid in 20/21, which workers believed may have been from exposure at work only 32,110(43,113 March2022) were reported to enforcing authorities by employers and only 387 (454 March 2022) deaths were reported, which the TUC said was at least 15,000 worker deaths in England and Wales at that time.

The TUC have a Workers' Memorial Day timeline which details some of the events in British labour history where employer and Government failures led to preventable deaths of workers and where trade unions won key legislative change to protect rights to safety at work.

The Hazards Campaign brought Workers Memorial Day to the UK in 1990s with twin aims, to Remember the Dead and also to Fight for the Living. We call on workers across the UK to join workers across the world to take action on 28th April and to share your event on 28april.org.

What are you doing for International Workers Memorial Day?

Hold a one minute silence at 12.00 to remember all those who have died because of work.

Are you organising an online event or a socially distanced event at your workplace? - have you arranged for a speaker from FACK Families Against Corporate Killers (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16054748370>) or the Hazards Campaign? If you need one please contact me and we can arrange it.

Although IWMD - International Workers Memorial Day is on April 28th there are events taking place across the week, and put your event on the map - 28April.org

Are you going to read out the names of people from your sector, industry or region, who have died this year because of work? - see HSE fatalities RIDDOR reported list <https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/fatalities/2021-22.htm>
Use the Hazards Campaign Whole Story numbers to talk about the true number of people who have died over the last 12 months because of work - <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/theholiestory>

If you know of anyone who has been killed because of work put their name on the Workers Memorial Wall
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/workers-memorial-wall>

Resources are available to purchase from GMHC - which include purple ribbons, face coverings, car stickers, and posters - <https://gmhazards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Resources-to-support-IWMD22.pdf>

More information and organising tools can be found at:

International events - 28april.org

Hazards magazine information and resources - <https://www.hazards.org/wmd/background.htm>

Hazards Campaign information and resources - <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/workers-memorial-day>

TUC information and resources - <https://www.tuc.org.uk/international-workers-memorial-day-iwmd>

Raise the profile of International Workers Memorial Day, spread the message of Remember the Dead Fight for The Living and campaign for the Fundamental Right for all workers to Safe and Healthy Work

Use the hashtag on social media #IWMD22 to spread the word

Films to use on # IWMD22

[Lean on Me](#) – Families against corporate killers supporting families of those killed at work, <https://youtu.be/iKqHlh40DnU>

[Hazards Campaigners talking about IWMD](#) means to them. <https://youtu.be/GcP0KzWg0mY>

[Fallen tears](#) <https://youtu.be/HdXICUM9IBI>

Carol Harte's film of [Tommy Harte bringing IWMD to the UK](#) https://youtu.be/aE_Q6YDM-Pw

[What is International Workers' Memorial Day](#) <https://youtu.be/OB80DOMD0w0>

FACKers tell their stories: 'Face the FACKs: the Human Face of Corporate Killing'

[Face the FACKs Part 1](#) [Face the FACKs Part 2](#)

[Face the FACKs Part 3](#) [Face the FACKs Part 4](#)

with best wishes

Janet

janet@qmhazards.org.uk

07734317158

Hazards Campaign 2022 resources and information