

36th Hazards Conference 5-7 Sept. 2025



Opening Plenary Speakers: Can AI ever be good for our health?

(Hybrid - Westminster Theatre Friday 5th Sept. 2025, 8-9pm)



Dr Philippa Collins (Bristol University) whose expertise lies at the intersection of labour law and human rights. Her research examines how rights are enforced and conceptualised, as well as the implications of workplace technology for our human rights.



Chenay Arberry (Senior Health and Safety Specialist at the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations AFL-CIO). Chenay will Zoom in from the United States and share her knowledge of AI, campaigning and the challenges for AFL-CIO in today's United States. Chenay has previously developed reports about tracking, monitoring, and AI with the London School of Economics.



Dr Joe Atkinson (University of Southampton) is an Associate Professor of Employment Law and Co-Director of the Stefan Cross Centre for Women, Equality and Law. He is also Coordinator of the Law and Psychology Programme. Joe's area of expertise and research is employment and labour law, with a particular focus on the intersection of employment law and human rights.



Dr Craig Gent (LSE) is the author of *Cyberboss: The Rise of Algorithmic Management and the New Struggle for Control at Work* (Verso Books). His expertise includes the effects of AI and algorithmic management on workers and their experience of work, and the politics of digital technologies in the workplace. He is a former Director of Novara Media, a long-time trade unionist, and a Fellow in Media and Communications - London School of Economics and Political Science.



(Chair) **Doug Russell** the session will be expertly chaired by veteran health and safety campaigner Doug Russell who has previously led health and safety at USDAW for many years. Now retired Doug is still very active in the union movement, at the Hazards campaign and keeping worker safety in the spotlight.

Saturday - 1st Meeting: Dealing with Violence and Stress at Work

(Hybrid - Westminster Theatre Saturday 6th Sept. 2025, 9am -10.30am)



Dr Ruth Beresford is a Research Associate in the Department of Psychology, Sociology & Politics at Hallam University. Ruth supports research projects from across the Department's disciplines, particularly in Sociology, Politics, Social Policy and Social Psychology. Notable research conducted in the fields of sexual harassment; women's sexualities and sexual lives; and qualitative and participatory research methodologies.



Jonathan Havard is a Health and Safety Officer for the RMT. Jonathan has been health and safety officer for the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) since 2020. Prior to this, he was a National Secretary at the maritime union Nautilus International, where he worked for almost 20 years. Jonathan is also a non-legal member of the Employment Tribunal Service in England and Wales.



Mike Hines? Health, Safety and Wellbeing Senior National Officer at the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). Mike has been an active health and safety educator and official in trade unions for many years. He is well respected in both union and the wider safety movement for his knowledge and a particular focus on human factors, safety cultures and the associated risks within built environments.



Dr Bob Jeffery is a Course Leader MRes Social Research and Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Hallam University. I am an active researcher whose work focuses on work and employment and social inequalities. Bob's current research focuses on 'work-based harms', unionisation of so-called 'difficult-to-organise' groups and industries and policy levers to promote good work. He is also the Course Leader for the MRes Social Research, a programme focused on training students for future careers in social research.



(Chair) **Alex Lancaster** is a Bargaining and Negotiations Official (Health and Safety) for the University and College Union (UCU). Alex is a strong campaigner on preventing workload stress and finding solutions. She has worked extensively on embedding safety culture into every workplace along negotiating robust safety outcomes for members. Alex is a regular supporter of the Hazards conference.

Saturday - 2nd Meeting: Workers Health Crisis amid a lack of Enforcement

(Hybrid - Westminster Theatre Saturday 6th Sept, 2025, 2pm – 3.30pm)



Luke Collins has been a National Health and Safety Advisor for Unite since 2023. Luke is responsible for supporting the manufacturing, steel, aerospace/shipbuilding, foundry and automotive sectors amongst others. Luke has served as a Unite health and safety representative for several years before entering Occupational Health and Safety Management as a professional.



Ceri Williams is policy lead for TUC Cymru. Previously he has worked for Social Care Wales, British Gas and Consumer Focus Wales. Ceri's areas of expertise include Rights at work, Work and technology, Health and safety in the workplace.



Harminder Bains Partner at Leigh Day Solicitors. Harminder is joint head of the asbestos and industrial diseases department, internationally renowned for her role fighting for victims of asbestos. She has over 25 years' litigation experience and has won several cases in the Supreme Court, which have set precedents and which other lawyers follow.



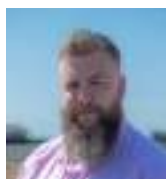
(Chair) **Dan Shears** is National Health, Safety & Environment Director at the GMB where he has been since 2008. A well-known union spokesperson on worker safety and was a former Policy Advisor at Health and Safety Executive. Dan studied at the University of Warwick.

From Climate Crisis to Choking Air – What Can Safety Reps Do?

(Hybrid - Westminster Theatre Sunday 7th Sept. 2025 9.30am – 12pm)



Miranda Irwin and **Frieda Lurken** are activists/ organisers behind the Heat Strike. Heat Strike is a campaign pushing for protections for workers during extreme heat. The campaign is calling for a maximum working temperature, heat wave furlough schemes, and proper climate mitigation plans. Between 14-20 July 2025 they were encouraging union members to raise banners outside of work or during lunch breaks. Calls for 'Heat Strike' or 'Too Hot to Work' raised awareness of the risks along with taking temperatures and recording the data.



Sean Halsall is a Unite Union Activist and Independent Councillor for Kew Ward Sefton (Southport). Sean worked as a bus driver for Arriva in Southport for 16 years, recruited to Unite during a training session and went on to become the rep at his workplace for 6 years. He went on to be youth rep for the transport road section of Unite and to sit on the European Transport Workers Federation.



Ian Hodson is the National President of Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU). Ian has been leading and campaigning on workers safety, the abolition of zero hour contracts, protection of workers' rights, ending sexual harassment and improving the minimum wage amongst other issues for decades. A key driver in Ian's work for the BFAWU has been about ending the race to the bottom in the food industry.



Georgia Montague-Nelson is an Executive Director at the Global Labour Institute based in Manchester. Georgia is an active Unite branch member. In 2024 she prepared a report for the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) '*Technological Changes at Airports and Their Impact on Workers*' detailing the effects of new technology on airport employees worldwide. She has also worked on papers relating to union democracy and a 'just transition'.



(Chair) **Janet Newsham** is a Coordinator of the Greater Manchester Hazards Centre and the Hazards Campaign. The campaign supports safety at work and has led initiatives to challenge work-related injuries and diseases. It has carried out a considerable body of research on safety practices. Janet has been a trade union activist for more than 40 years, starting work at BAe. In her current role she advises workers and campaigns on occupational health, safety and welfare issues, including delivering projects on Toxic Use Reduction, Long COVID, sexual harassment and facilitating the Trade Union Clean Air Network (TUCAN).

Sat. 6th Sept 5.45pm **Is Asbestos making a comeback and Silicosis the next asbestos?**



Chair: **Rob Rayner** is the Co-ordinator of Greater Manchester Asbestos Victims Support Group (GMAVSG). Rob has been with the charity since 2015. He took over as co-ordinator of the charity in 2019. He is a strong supporter of the Hazards movement and is a passionate campaigner for the rights and recognition of individuals and families affected by asbestos. Rob previously worked for Citizens Advice and Tameside Welfare Rights.



Victoria Cadman is an Associate Solicitor in Manchester in the Workplace Injury Team. She has over 12 years experience specialising in claims for people who have developed asbestos related illnesses such as mesothelioma, asbestos related lung cancer, asbestosis and pleural thickening. Victoria has a great deal of experience in running claims in the Cheshire area and has helped a wide range of people to secure compensation.



Sarah Lyons is Lead Officer for Health, Safety and Environment at the National Education Union (NEU). She has worked in health and safety for the NEU, and previously the NUT, for over 30 years and more recently her role has encompassed environmental and climate change issues.

Sat. 6th Sept 5.45pm **How do we make enforcement matter?**



Chair: **Rob Miguel** National Health and Safety Advisor - Unite the Union. Rob has contributed to campaigns on workplace temperatures; safety related Covid issues and has published guidance for Unite safety reps on risk assessments. In 2024 Rob won the prestigious Safety and Health Practitioner (SHP) award for Most Influential in 2024.



Phil Liptrot is a personal injury specialist and Head of Personal Injury at Thompsons Solicitors. Qualifying as a solicitor in 1998, Phil has used his wealth of legal knowledge and experience to expertly handle high-value cases of up to seven figures, which include head injuries, amputations, fatal accidents, multiple orthopaedic injuries, psychiatric and chronic pain conditions. Phil now leads on and develops the firm's personal injury strategy and operations.



Marie Monaghan UCU Regional Trade Union Support Official who is an experienced industrial relations advisor with a history of working across a variety of employment sectors. Marie's skills include negotiation, conflict resolution and is has a proven track record as a specialist in worker health and safety.

Sat. 6th Sept 5.45pm **Toxic health from toxic work**



Chair: **Scott MacRory** is a Regional Health and Safety Representative for the Fire Brigades Union. Scott has over 13 years of dedicated service in emergency response, his expertise lies in health and safety legislation, personnel management, and crisis leadership, particularly within the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. Scott is deeply committed to enhancing the

safety culture and wellbeing of over 5,000 fire-fighters in Scotland through safer working environments.



Sarah Moore is a leading international and product safety lawyer at Leigh Day. Sarah specialises in large multiparty group actions on behalf of claimants based in the UK and overseas across a wide range of issues including environmental and product liability claims. Sarah's work often involves seeking compensation for individuals who have been adversely impacted by defective medical products; or for those impacted by pollutant chemical products including oil spills, toxic waste and most recently PFAS chemicals.



Ian Tasker Senior Advisor Scottish Hazards. Ian has been involved with Scottish Hazards since 2001. Prior to that he spent 16 years with the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) on health and safety policy with the Scottish and United Kingdom Governments as well as engagement with external stakeholders. Ian has championed many campaigns for Scottish Hazards and the wider movement together with advising reps, workers and their families seeking information and justice.

**Sat. 6th Sept
5.45pm**

Violence at Work



Chair: **Darren Northcott** is a National Official (Education) at the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT). Darren has been National Official for Education at the NASUWT since 2004. Previously, he was a National Officer at the FDA, the senior Civil and Public Service Union. Darren began his career as a primary school teacher and has worked in schools in Newham, East London and in Cheshire East.



Maryam Eslamdoust is the General Secretary of the TSSA and former Mayor of Camden. In 2023 Maryam was elected as the TSSA General Secretary and the first woman, and person of colour to lead the union. Maryam has a degree in Economics and a Masters in Law from UCL. She held jobs at senior levels in the Labour Party working in areas such as the NEC Equalities Committee, convening several crucial joint committees between trade unions and frontbench politicians including issues such as fire safety, Grenfell, and community wealth building. (Online)



Rhys Martin is a Health and Safety Policy Officer at Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR or SoR). Rhys had previously worked as a regional organiser for Unison, spent several years at the National Education Union (NEU/ formerly ATL) where he helped set up the first eastern regional organising team and undertook rep training, recruitment, campaigns, rep mentoring and branch support. Rhys started his union career as civil service safety rep for PCS covering London courts then later he was elected to the Group Executive Committee in PCS which he sat on nationally for the Public Sector Group. (Online)