

Hazards campaign

**26th National Hazards Conference
Hazards 2015**
to be held at
Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent
4th-6th September 2015

Hazards 2015 Sponsorship Appeal

We acknowledge gratefully the generous support given to Hazards 2014 by our sponsors in Unions nationally, regionally and at branches, trades councils, individuals, and union-linked personal injury solicitors. We hope this vital support will continue for Hazards 2015.

Feedback from Hazards 2014 was excellent. 350 safety reps and activist from all unions, all types of workplaces and from all over the UK came together for 'Bad work is making us sick: We're not having it'.

Four years of sustained attacks on workers' health and safety by the Con-Dems, plus their perfect storm of neoliberal austerity attacks on working class from cradle to grave have taken a terrible toll of workers' health and lives. Deregulation of health and safety continues with plans to exempt self-employed people from H&S law, the Refit review of all H&S laws in Europe, plus the EU-USA TTIP agreement. Political interference in the work of the HSE continues with the budget cut by 44%, workers representation on the HSE Board down to 2 not 3, and a new CEO appointed by government to 'commercialise the HSE' despite the independent Triennial Review report that HSE was fit for purpose

In the Friday plenary, we revealed the back page of next Hazards Magazine, which is a letter to send to Dr Richard Judge, the new HSE CEO: 'Don't Pimp our Watchdog' www.hazards.org/safetypimp Delegates, half of whom were new, showed great enthusiasm for fighting back and undertook to print and send off this letter. Ray Rafferty, UNISON for the Belfast Hospitals reminded delegates how health and safety can be massively improved for members by good branch organisation and using the powers of the safety reps. Tom O'Connor, Ex Director of National COSH – equivalent of UK Hazards Campaign – described the difficult USA H&S situation and the work of the COSH organisations to improve it. UK Hazards Campaign and Magazine, our Asian colleagues and US COSH are working to form a global occupational safety and health organisation.

We ended with a powerful speech from Trevor Burden for FACK, about how his and Maria's

beloved 19 year old son Jason was killed by his employer's negligence. A standing ovation rewarded Trevor for his bravery and reminded us all why we do what we do- to stop people being killed injured or made ill at work.

Ian Hodson, President of BAFWU, led the Saturday plenary with a passionate speech on their success at Hovis, Wigan in defeating zero hours contracts, Justice for Fast Food workers and a £10 minimum wage for all. Aida Ponce del Castillo, of the ETUI, excellently described the dangers for workers' health and safety in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, TTIP, how it is yet more deregulation by another route and must be defeated to stop giving more power to corporations.

Nancy Lessin of United Steelworkers, USA, gave a brilliant and comprehensive presentation on 'Illness and injury by design, how work organization changes undermine the health and safety of working people and weaken our unions'. Delegates recognized the scenarios Nancy described and some of the ways to fight against them, which she further elaborated upon in a Keynote meeting and Campaign meeting.

Keynote meetings examined government changes to the HSE, the dangers of 'wellbeing' approaches over prevention of the hazards that make us sick, and fighting against employers flexibility. Workshops focused on improving our performance as safety reps, taking up issues with employers, recruiting members, giving reps the confidence that comes from knowing their functions are supported by the SRSC Regulations. We ran specific issue workshops - resisting resilience, body mapping, using surveys, MSDs, bullying and harassment, sickness absence and violence. For presentations and videos soon, see: www.hazardscampaign.org.uk Please consider our appeal positively. Cheques should be payable to Hazards 2015, and sent to: Hazards 2015, GMHC, Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD. Contact us for more information on **0161 636 7557**, or e-mail hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk
Thank you support.

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We are sponsoring the 26th National Hazards Conference. Please send uscopies of the booking forms when they are printed in 2015. I enclose a sponsorship cheque for £..... payable to Hazards 2015.

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