

Hazards campaign

**28th National Hazards Conference
Hazards 2017**
to be held at
Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent
28th- 30th July

Hazards 2017 Sponsorship Appeal

We are grateful for the generous support for Hazards 2016 by our sponsors in Unions nationally, regionally, at branches, trades councils, individuals, and union-linked personal injury solicitors. Without your support the conference would not be successful and we hope that you will continue to support Hazards 2017.

This year we received excellent feedback from 350 safety reps and activists, around half of whom were new delegates, from all types of workplaces, all unions, and from all over the UK, coming together to discuss 'Building Resilience to support safety reps'.

The Hazards Conference is the largest conference in Europe for Trade Union health and Safety reps. It is an opportunity for health and safety representatives to network, gain new knowledge and skills and hear from international and national speakers who are health and safety experts and leading health and safety campaigners and academics.

This year we had a number of international and national speakers including Aida Ponce Del Castillo from the ETUI, Sanjiv Pandita from GOSH, Hugh Robertson from TUC, Professor Steve Tombs from the Open University, Dr Anne Raynal an ex-HSE senior medical inspector and Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell MP.

We held campaign meetings covering: Better than zero, Sports Direct, Asbestos in Schools, TTIP and International Campaigning. There were seminars to discuss and share experiences from the workplace. There were meetings on: Improving support for safety reps; Karoshi/Karojisatsu death/suicide due to work and UK/ global threats to health and safety organisation. There were 18 different practical workshops for delegates to learn new skills and information covering the themes: Workplace organisation; Dealing with risks; and the Employers offensive/workplace tyranny.

The Conference facilitated a discussion on the implications of the EU leave vote for health and safety, the effects of the Government agenda on reducing regulation and cutting the costs of enforcement.

Dr. Anne Raynal talked about the lack of reporting from employers on workplace illness and the subsequent lack of prosecutions and enforcement. 'On average there are only 1600 disease notifications under RIDDOR per annum for the 516000 new cases of work-related ill health that HSE estimate occurs every year (0.03%)' Steve Tombs talked about the privatisation of enforcement, 'dismantling a system of regulation – social protection – which was put into place from the 1830s onwards'. He also detailed the reduction in the number of HSE inspections (fell by 69%), prosecutions(fell by 35%), and also spoke about the concerns of the Primary Authority Scheme which enables businesses across different local authorities to choose one to regulate all of its sites.

Sanjiv Pandita from GOSH talked about the huge manufacturing companies employing 50-80 thousand workers in enormous hangars who make our phones and trainers. He showed pictures of the slums they are forced to live in because of the poverty wages they are on, reminiscent of the Victorian slums during the industrial revolution. Sarah Wiktorski inspired us with details of the STUC Better than Zero young workers campaign. We also heard from Royston Bentham from the Blacklisting campaign and shadow chancellor John McDonnell MP spoke about the commitment of the Labour Party to workplace Health and Safety. Finally, we were urged to send a postcard to Theresa May to put pressure on the new Prime Minister to support and not erode health and safety legislation.

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/postcard>

There were many highlights at the conference and a full report and copies of presentations is at www.hazardscampaign.org.uk

Please consider our appeal positively. Cheques should be payable to Hazards 2017, and sent to: Hazards 2017, GMHC, Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD. Tel: 0161 636 7557, Email: hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk Thank you in advance for your support.

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We are sponsoring the 28th National Hazards Conference. Please sendcopies of the booking forms when they are printed in 2017. I enclose a sponsorship cheque for £..... payable to Hazards 2017.

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