

Hazards 2012 Statement

'We Didn't Vote to Die at Work' so 'Stop it you're Killing us'

'The Hazards Campaign unequivocally condemns this Government's continued attacks on the health, safety and welfare of workers, which is already killing more of us, injuring more of us, and making more of us ill. We demand that all jobs are safe and healthy for all workers in the UK, and across the world and pledge ourselves to step up the 'We didn't vote to die at work' campaign to 'Stop it you're killing us'.

'We utterly reject the Government lies that workers' health and safety is a 'burden on business' as the evidence proves it is really a burden on individual workers, their families, society and the public purse. Employers' health and safety crimes cost society over £40 billion a year, yet the guilty employers pay less than a quarter of that cost.

'We demand an end to both the deregulation of health and safety laws and the slashing of their enforcement; a reinstatement of funding of enforcement by the HSE and local authority inspectors; and a reinstatement of proactive, preventative inspections in all workplaces.

'We demand enforcement of the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations to support the life-saving work of safety reps, and harsher penalties on employers who restrict their activities, the right to impose Provisional Improvement Notices (PINs), and the implementation of Directors Duties.

'We demand a worker/Trade Union led enquiry into the HSE occupational cancer strategy and a national cancer strategy which recognises all occupation and environmental risk factors. We demand that all occupational ill-health is put back on the health and safety agenda, and urgent action taken.

We demand safe, healthy jobs and workplaces for all workers all over the world and pledge our international solidarity with workers fighting for better standards in other countries: an injury to one is an injury to all.

We recognise that while all workers are at risk those in temporary, free lance, agency, short term contract and other precarious jobs are at greater risk of work-related injury, ill-health and death and face the worst health and safety conditions and exploitation, generally without the collective support of trade unions. We pledge our solidarity and support, to organise and to campaign for safe healthy jobs for these precarious workers.

We pledge ourselves to put workers' safety and health at the heart of the agenda of the 20th October TUC March for 'A Future that Work 'better by marching as part of our union delegations wearing 'We didn't Vote to die at Work' T-shirts, carrying 'Stop it your Killing us' posters and making our colleagues and the public aware that workers health and safety is no joke, is also public safety, and that every workers' should be able to go to work and come home alive and unharmed after every shift.

We go back to our workplaces to:
'Organise, Educate, Make Work Safe'

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