

Hazards Conference 2020 – Viral Action

1st August, 2020 by zoom

HAZARDS CAMPAIGN

Saturday 1st August – the Hazards Conference is going online this year!

Viral Action -
responding to the pandemic by actively organising safe and healthy workplaces

10.00 – 11.30 Opening Plenary – with international speakers on Covid-19 and the impact on workers
12.00 – 13.00 Safety reps taking the lead! – during and after Covid-19
13.30– 14.30 Fighting inequality in health and safety!
15.00 – 16.00 Mental Health and Covid-19
16.30- 17.30 Toxics Out! Air pollution, Just Transition after Covid-19

Register at Eventbrite
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hazards-online-conference-2020-viral-action-tickets-113872190788>

If you or your branch would like to donate to Hazards Campaign please send any donations to: Hazards 2020, Ac/No: 20090430, Scode: 60 83 01, Bank: Unity Trust Bank, Four Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2JB Ref: organisation/name

Hear from international speakers what is happening in their countries and how workers are responding.

What do we need safety reps to do and how do we organise creatively?

Women/ Black/ Young/ Disabled workers and Covid-19

Trauma, work-related stress, mental ill health during and after Covid-19

Campaigning to get toxic substances and chemicals out of work

More than 370 delegates registered for our first ever zoom conference which was held on Saturday 1st August, 2020. Doug Russell the National Health and Safety Officer at USDAW chaired the opening plenary session and was joined by international speakers from Nepal, HongKong, Australia, US and Denmark after Louise Taggart spoke from FACK and also were Shelly Asquith the newly appointed TUC health and safety policy officer. This provided an international and national picture of how Covid-19 pandemic was impacting on workers and how they were responding. A recording of the plenary session can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfViyL71LD4&t=1902s>

After the plenary, there were four different workshops:

Workshop 1 – Safety Reps taking the lead – during and after Covid-19

Workshop 2 – Fighting Inequality in Health and Safety

Workshop 3 – Mental Health and Covid-19

Workshop 4 – Toxics Out! Air pollution, just transition after Covid-19

With a plethora of fantastic, engaging, interesting and inspiring speakers. Some of their presentations are available on the Hazards Campaign website.

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There were over 500 people participating in different meetings during the day, and the event was a brilliant opportunity to continue the Hazards Conference tradition of grass root activism, which brings together trade union safety reps and officers, academics and health, safety and environmental activists and campaigners.

The links and other shared information that were posted in the chat box, can be found below and a film of the plenary session is available from the Hazards Campaign website at www.hazardscampaign.org.uk.

Many thanks to all those who spoke, chaired, participated and encouraged. It wasn't our usual Keele event but it was an inspiring and unique event and I hope to see many of you next year in person at Keele.

Janet Newsham

On behalf of the Hazards Conference Organising Committee

Hazards Conference 2021 will be on Friday 30th July to Sunday 1st August 2021

Agenda

10.00 – 11.30 Plenary – Viral Action Internationally	Chair: Doug Russell – USDAW National Health and Safety Officer	
	Louise Taggart – FACK	
	Michael Quinlan, University of New South Wales, Australia	
	Janne Hansen, Danish Trade Unionist and member of EWHN	Powerpoint
	Ram Charitra Coordinator of ANROEV	Powerpoint
	Sanjiv Pandita Solidar Suisse as Regional Coordinator Asia- it is an outreach organisation of the Swiss Labour and Trade Union movement (Social Democrats)	Mr. SANJIV PANDITA received the American Public Health Association (APHA) 2020 Leslie Nickels International Health and Safety Award. this award recognizes individuals and organizations with outstanding achievement in the field of occupational health and safety outside the United States.

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Peter Dooley – a senior safety and health project coordinator for the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health, a worker advocacy federation based in Massachusetts

Powerpoint

Shelly Asquith – TUC Health and Safety Officer

Janet Newsham – Hazards Campaign Chair

12.00 – 13.00 Workshop 1 – Safety Reps taking the lead – during and after Covid-19

Chair Rob Miguel, UNITE
National Health and Safety
Officer

Tracy Edwards – PCS Health, safety and welfare policy officer
Assistant General Secretary's office

Julie Weekes – TUEducation
Lecturer

Neil Hope- Collins – Prospect
NEC member and Deputy
V.Chair

Paul Holleran – GMB NW Region
Health and Safety Officer

13.30 – 14.30 Workshop 2 – Fighting Inequality in Health and Safety

Chair Andrea Oates – LRD/NUJ

Helen Lynn – Alliance for Cancer prevention on Women

Powerpoint

Moe Muhsin Manir – Unite trade union activist on BAME

Claire Trevor – TGI Friday striker on Young Workers

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Dr.Lucy Burke – UCU NEC on
Disabled workers

15.00 – 16.00 Workshop 3 – Mental Health and Covid-19

Chair: Dan Shears – GMB
National H&S Director

Professor Sarah Waters – Leeds
University on workers and suicide

Powerpoint

Joan McNulty – UK Stress
Network Coordinator on
Resistance not Resilience

Janet Farrar – UCU V.President
Elect on Young Workers Mental
Health

Powerpoint

16.30 – 17.30 Workshop 4 – Toxics Out! Air pollution, just transition after Covid-19

Chair: Sarah Woolley – BFAWU
General Secretary

Hilda Palmer – TUCAN / Hazards
Campaign / FACK

PDF

Ted Smith - Coordinator at ICRT -
International Campaign for
Responsible Technology

Powerpoint

Bascut Tuncat - UN Special
Rapporteur for Toxic Substances
and Waste

LINKS AND INFORMATION SHARED IN THE CHAT BOX DURING THE DAY IN ALL THE SESSIONS

Links shared in the plenary session:

TWITTER handles: FOLLOW US

@hazardscampaign @hazardsmagazine

@CentreGreater

@JNewsham @HildaPalmer @hazardseeditor

WEBSITES:

Hazards Campaign: <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/> signb up for updates

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Greater Manchester Hazards Centre: <https://gmhazards.org.uk/>

Hazards Magazine@ Issue 150 <http://www.hazards.org/index.htm> SUBSCRIBE!

FACEBOOK:

We didn't vote to die at work -Hazards Campaign

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123746101003963/>

Greater Manchester Hazards Centre

<https://www.facebook.com/GreaterManchesterHazardsCentre/>

Families Against Corporate Killers <https://www.facebook.com/groups/16054748370/>

Hazards Magazine <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hazardsmagazine/>

INFORMATION ON COVID-19:

Go to Hazards Campaign blog and scroll down through our recent output on #Covid19 <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/category/blog>

See also key documents:

ON Covid19:

Professor Andrew Watterson: Covid 19 in the UK and occupational health and safety predictable but not inevitable failures

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340502136_COVID_19_in_the_UK_and_occupational_health_and_safety_-_predictable_but_not_inevitable_failures_what_can_we_do_now_updated

Checking Covid Risk Assessments <https://gmhazards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/How-do-we-approach-reviewing-the-Risk-Assessments-in-the-Workplace-because-of-Covid-1.pdf>

Individual risk assessments: <https://gmhazards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/How-and-when-should-an-individual-Risk-Assessment-be-carried-out.pdf>

We go back to work safely or not at all:

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/hazards-campaign-we-go-back-to-work-safely-or-not-at-all?fbclid=IwAR37KlcpmDOumdJYf11YPr1sb36Sv1ybVrijstfDYWP-ie2JRI1j5iLQPNw>

Keep your distance - is 2m enough http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/keep-your-distance-is-two-metres-too-far-or-not-far-enough?fbclid=IwAR0cbiHWOBd6bafYopfJvliMKsBNUz_Mmv96T4-ealxeBUI8sJkekdaZPxQ

Deadly Failures http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/hazards-campaign-statement-deadly-failures-have-placed-millions-of-workers-at-unnecessary-coronavirus-exposure-risk?fbclid=IwAR0Dpqrw06_aAQ4nR6NqSpq5vvbY-fHi6JVeikXkiY-cuOU5bziJaASUQ0U

Hazards Campaign Whole Story: <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/thewholestory.pdf>

Hazards Campaign Charter: <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/?s=discussion>

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Hazards Campaign Manifesto for health and safety system fit for workers to create Decent Jobs and Decent lives for all <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/wp->

Hazards Magazine 149 'Exposure' and Hazards 150 Pieces of meat Class war <http://www.hazards.org/index.htm>

Dave Smith Organising 101 columns: <http://hazards.org/organising101/index.htm>

Brown Book <https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/BrownBook2015.pdf>

GMHC Safety reps short version:

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2018/08/safetyrepstoolkit.pdf>

TUC Risks [https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/risks-union-health-and-safety-news-number-955-9-july-](https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/risks-union-health-and-safety-news-number-955-9-july-2020?fbclid=IwAR1YXJrs97aKaYc2WxhZ0GzCPI17JgYgla2bVUNzEhOc2OXj1a0CHxhRe9Y)

[2020?fbclid=IwAR1YXJrs97aKaYc2WxhZ0GzCPI17JgYgla2bVUNzEhOc2OXj1a0CHxhRe9Y](https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/risks-union-health-and-safety-news-number-955-9-july-2020?fbclid=IwAR1YXJrs97aKaYc2WxhZ0GzCPI17JgYgla2bVUNzEhOc2OXj1a0CHxhRe9Y)

Louise Taggart - Louise @michaels_story <https://www.michaels-story.net/>

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/28-april-fack-statement-if-you-do-not-protect-the-workforce-in-a-pandemic-you-do-not-protect-the-public>

Anyone else from Midlands, if you send me your email address, I can make sure you hear about any local Hazards events. Kathryn.gaffney92@gmail.com

MichaelQuinlan is a friend of FACK and has produced great research on families of those killed by work, His latest paper on disasters

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1035304620944301>

National COSH : From US - National COSH website

https://www.coshnetwork.org/National_COSH_COVID19_Resources

Link to materials from Constructions Branch: <https://www.bfa-ba.dk/sikkerhedsarbejdet/corona-oversat>

Link to materials (in English) from The Work Environment i Denmark: <https://at.dk/en>

contact me on janne.hansen@3f.dk if you want to now more about the situation in Denmark.

Hazards Magazine EXPOSED issue www.hazards.org/exposed

From Ram Charitra Sah : More about ANROEV <http://www.anroev.org/>

<https://twitter.com/AnroevNetwork>

<https://www.facebook.com/anroev.secretariat.5/>

Links shared in Workshop 1: Safety Reps taking the lead during and after Covid-19

“The statistically average employer can expect to see an inspector once every 275 years” <https://www.ier.org.uk/comments/in-search-of-the-covid-secure-workplace/>

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From Sarah Waters : Excellent points. One of the reasons death rates are so high in the UK is that there never really was a lock-down:

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/oureconomy/dont-buy-the-lockdown-lie-this-is-a-government-of-business-as-usual/>

Go to Hazards Campaign blog and scroll down through our recent output on #Covid19 <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/category/blog>

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[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340502136_COVID_19_in_the_UK_and_occupational_health_and_safety_-](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340502136_COVID_19_in_the_UK_and_occupational_health_and_safety_-_predictable_but_not_inevitable_failures_what_can_we_do_now_updated)

[_predictable_but_not_inevitable_failures_what_can_we_do_now_updated](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340502136_COVID_19_in_the_UK_and_occupational_health_and_safety_-_predictable_but_not_inevitable_failures_what_can_we_do_now_updated)

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[content/uploads/2020/05/How-do-we-approach-reviewing-the-Risk-Assessments-in-the-Workplace-because-of-Covid-1.pdf](https://gmhazards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/How-do-we-approach-reviewing-the-Risk-Assessments-in-the-Workplace-because-of-Covid-1.pdf)

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[content/uploads/2020/07/How-and-when-should-an-individual-Risk-Assessment-be-carried-out.pdf](https://gmhazards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/How-and-when-should-an-individual-Risk-Assessment-be-carried-out.pdf)

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Peter Dooley, National COSH : peter@nationalcosh.org

From Tracy Edwards :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpj95SKXOLc&list=PLpWEQxwRfgp0moF4Fjp3HO-PfRpXmKYNX&index=21>

From Julie Weekes : Teamsters Power at Work YouTube video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGFfG-8SulM>

: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

From Tony Whelan : Hi everyone. I watched this you tube video on producing a Covid risk assessment for a workplace. It is based on the hierarchy of controls. It was informative.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=dr+john+campbell&&view=detail&mid=63746AC435F32FE08C5C63746AC435F32FE08C5C&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Ddr%2Bjohn%2Bcampbell%26FORM%3DHDRSC3>

Hazards Campaign feels pressure must be on for Govt to adopt Zero Covid approach and get rate of infection down to 1 in 1 million of less so that it is safe to go back to school <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/the-hazards-campaign-calls-for-the-government-to-adopt-immediately-a-zero-covid19-policy>

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From Neil HC (Prospect) : Prospect Campaign for a fully funded HSE here:
<https://prospect.org.uk/health-and-safety-executive/>

Links shared in Workshop 2 – Fighting Inequality in Health and Safety

From Moe Bus Driver : Take a look at Moe - ★**London Bus Driver**★
(@BusSafetyRep): <https://twitter.com/BusSafetyRep?s=09>

Face It Inequality at work sickens us all:

<http://www.hazards.org/vulnerableworkers/ituc28april.htm>

Helen <https://allianceforcancerprevention.org.uk/2020/07/23/open-letter-to-cancer-research-uk/>

<https://frompinktoprevention.org/2017/12/19/why-we-need-to-keep-reach-for-breast-cancer-prevention/>

<http://lincscancerproject.org/>

In the dark HSE refuses to see the light on night work and cancer

<http://www.hazards.org/cancer/inthedark.htm>

From Claire Trevor : thank you for the support! Nicola that's awful. if anyone wants to contact me my facebook is claire trevor and my twitter is @spicytrev

Links shared in Workshop3 – Mental health and Covid-19

Hazards Magazine work suicide articles <http://www.hazards.org/suicide/>

Global experts tell HSE to act on work related suicides:

<http://www.hazards.org/suicide/suicidenote.htm>

Hazards Campaign ecard on suicide <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/suicide>

<http://www.hazards.org/suicide/suicidebrief.pdf>

Statement to HSE on suicide

<http://www.hazards.org/suicide/researchersstatement.pdf>

Collective Resistance not individual resilience:

<http://www.hazards.org/stress/resilience.htm>

Heartbroken

<http://www.hazards.org/gallery/heartbroken.htm>

From Rory O'Neill : One think we need is more evidence. I appreciate is a difficult issue in the workplace, but the more information we receive - as revealed in this chat

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- the more leverage we have. You can email me at editor@hazards.org. I treat everything as confidential unless agreed otherwise.

From Janet Farrar : TUC booklet: <https://www.tuc.org.uk/resource/mental-health-and-workplace>

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/reasonable-adjustments-disability-passports>

Links shared in Workshop4 - Toxics Out! Air pollution, just transition after Covid-19

You expose us, we'll expose you: <https://gmhazards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/stop-deadly-exposure-1.pdf>

SRSC Regs Brown Book

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/BrownBook2015.pdf>

GMHC SRSC Regs short version:

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2018/08/safetyrepstoolkit.pdf>

Hazards Magazine Cancer bibliography:

<http://cancerhazards.org/#sthash.0V2hyBjq.dpbs> and Hazards ITUC cancer map

<http://www.hazards.org/images/h145workcancermmap1000.jpg>

Hazards is running campaign cut silica exposure level

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/hazards-campaign-calls-for-urgent-cut-to-killer-silica-dust-limit>

GJA <http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/>

TUCAN Charter <http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/GJA-TU-Clean-Air-CharterEMAIL.pdf>

TUCAN Safety Reps Guide to tackling Air Pollution at Work

<http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/TUCAN-Guidance-for-TU-Reps>.

From Ram Charitra Sah : <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/third-worlds-children-poisoned-lead-new-groundbreaking-analysis-says>

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From Mick : WORKPLACE AIR POLLUTION

TUCAN are keen to link up with union reps/workers who want to investigate air pollution issues in and around their workplace. TUCAN have access to air pollution monitoring equipment which can be provided free of charge and with expert help to assist in investigating any suspected problems.

If anyone is interested please contact Graham at TUCAN on [gjacomsg@gmail.com](mailto:gjacoms@gmail.com)

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For more information about TUCAN (Trade Union Clean Air Network) go here:
<http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/air-pollution/>

From Nicola Redwood (Unite) : Here is my petition again

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/no-cuts-to-nhs-jobs>

COSHH regulation 11 - requirements for Health Surveillance: Health surveillance shall be treated as being appropriate where – the exposure of the employee to a substance hazardous to health is

such that –

(i) an identifiable disease or adverse health effect may be related to the exposure;

(ii) there is a reasonable likelihood that the disease or effect may occur under the particular conditions of his work; and

(iii) there are valid techniques for detecting indications of the disease or

effect, and the technique of investigation is of low risk to the employee.

From Rory O'Neill : Some of the issues raised by Baskut are covered here:

<http://www.hazards.org/chemicals/allout.htm>

From hilda palmer : Baskut's 15 workers rights are in this document too You expose us, we'll expose you:<https://gmhazards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/stop-deadly-exposure-1.pdf>

From baskut : Here is on view on the risks of Brexit and the US-UK trade deal for chemicals: <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/brexit-us-trade-talks-trump-food-standards-pesticides-eu-a9556581.html>