Remember The Dead: Fight For The Living

International Workers' Memorial Day 28 April 2024

USDAW
HEALTH & SAFETY

Climate Risks for Workers
International Workers' Memorial Day
28 April 2024

International Workers' Memorial Day (IWMD) is the day when the international labour movement remembers those who have been killed or injured in workplace accidents and those who have died from occupational diseases.

The event started in Canada and the US in 1986 and has been supported by Usdaw since 1995. Since then it has been taken up by the TUC and is supported by the Health and Safety Executive and by the British Government.

This year the theme for IWMD chosen by the International TUC is "Climate risks for workers".

Heat is already one of the biggest health and safety concerns for our members, as exposure can have short and long term health impacts. This issue is only likely to worsen over the coming years, with global warming increasing average temperatures and causing heatwaves.

Health and Safety Reps can struggle to deal with this issue as there is no maximum workplace temperature for workplaces in the law. Usdaw supports the TUC in wanting to see a legal maximum temperature for indoor work of 30°C (27°C for those doing strenuous work).

The law currently requires employers in indoor workplaces to provide a reasonable temperature, and to act where the temperature is uncomfortably high. For outdoor workplaces there is still the general duty to protect workers from the heat by assessing the risks and introducing reasonable measures.

Health and Safety Reps can deliver improved working conditions when there is excessive heat when they:

- **Organise** – Health and Safety Reps, using the power of the collective voice of the membership, can organise and act where they work to achieve improved working conditions around high temperatures.
- **Consult** – Usdaw Health and Safety Reps can use their legal functions to listen to the members concerns, take temperature readings in their workplace, and consult their employer to introduce measures.
- **Protect** – Usdaw can use its bargaining strength to make sure that workplace health and safety risk assessments for high temperatures are in place and continue to push the Government for a strengthening of the law, by introducing a maximum workplace temperature.

USDAW HEALTH & SAFETY

What Can You Do for International Workers' Memorial Day?

Arrange a Display In Your Workplace

Usdaw have produced a poster and leaflet for reps to use in the workplace on IWMD. Complete the order form at: **www.usdaw.org.uk/IWMDorder**

Wear a Purple "Forget Me Knot" Ribbon

Ribbons can be bought from Greater Manchester Hazards Centre. Greater Manchester Hazards Centre can also supply posters and car stickers. Download an order form at: **gmhazards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Resources-to-support-IWMD24.pdf**

Find Out if There Are Any Ceremonies or Events In Your Area

Local trades councils or hazards centres will be organising events around the country. Find out about events in your area and visit the TUC online Memorial Wall or the TUC Workers' Memorial Day Timeline at: **www.tuc.org.uk/wmd**

IWMD is one of the biggest events in the international trade union movement calendar.

To keep track of international developments check out the ITUC 28 April webpages: **www.28april.org**

Strong laws – Strong enforcement – Strong unions
www.28april.org #IWMD24

More Information

Usdaw Nationwide

Wherever you work, an Usdaw rep or official (Area Organiser) is not far away. For further information or assistance, contact your Usdaw rep or local Usdaw office. Alternatively you can phone our Freephone Helpline **0800 030 80 30** to connect you to your regional office or visit our website: **www.usdaw.org.uk**
You can also write to the Union's Head Office. Just write **FREEPOST USDAW** on the envelope and put it in the post.

Join Usdaw

You can join online at:
www.usdaw.org.uk/join

Scan the QR code to join today.

What Happens Next

Once we process your application, you will receive a membership card with our Helpline telephone number and a New Member's Pack giving details of all the benefits and professional services available to you.

March 2024
Stock photography, posed by models

USDAW