



Remember The Dead Fight For The Living

International Workers'
Memorial Day 28 April 2025



Unions Protecting People, Powering Safety With AI

International Workers' Memorial Day 28 April 2025

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 the British Government.

This year, the theme for IWMD chosen by the International TUC is "The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and digitisation on occupational health and safety."

AI is transforming work, and this has the potential to introduce new risks to health and safety in the workplace. We have seen the automation of checkouts in retail, AI monitoring and assessing tasks in warehousing, and the automation of production lines in manufacturing. These changes in working practices could have a significant impact on workers' physical and mental wellbeing.

The Health and Safety Executive, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, has helped regulate and enforce health and safety law to improve workplace H&S standards and will play a significant role in protecting workers from the emerging risks from AI.

What will also be vital when employers introduce AI is a strong Union with active representatives, taking forward the workers' collective voice and consulting with employers to ensure they help reduce the risks.

Health and Safety Reps can deliver improved working conditions when employers introduce AI by:

- **Organising** - Using the power of the collective voice of the membership, they can organise and take action where they work.
- **Consulting** - Using their legal functions to listen to members, they can assess tasks using AI in their workplace, and consult their employer.
- **Protecting** - Using the Unions' bargaining strength to protect workers by ensuring their perspective is considered, and that technology is used for the benefit of all.

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. 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, which can also supply resources including posters and car stickers. Download an order form at: www.usdaw.org.uk/HazardsIWMD

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/IWMD

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

**REMEMBER
THE DEAD**

FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

Strong laws – Strong enforcement – Strong unions
www.28april.org #IWMD25

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/JoinUs



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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.



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Our publications are regularly updated. View the latest version at: www.usdaw.org.uk/IWMDleaflet

