European Health & Safety Week Special Edition

Resilience My Arse!
Danger signs ahead for Health and Safety in Europe

With all the hot air and bluster around from UKIP and the Tories about pulling out of Europe it is more important than ever to appreciate the good that is done by the EU especially on health and safety. We know that deregulation is their mantra, cutting red tape the panacea for all, but we also know that further rolling back of regulation puts us all at risk.

The latest news from Europe is very worrying. There is a proposal for a bonfire of regulations so that all small and medium sized enterprises will enjoy virtually blanket exemption from the rules governing business practices. This is meant to be a sop to Cameron to prevent the UK heading through the outdoor, It Is a sign of the growing threat to H&S and that the EU may no longer be a brake on de-regulation.

CTRL-Click on the picture above to download our very popular informative booklet.
Here at workstress.net we know that the cost of sickness absence is growing, not only on individuals, but also on corporations and employers. Until governments and employers appreciate that ignoring work stress adds huge financial costs to their operations they will always blame the individual and the conditions that cause work stress will multiply.

So we continue to campaign on work stress, run our annual conference, attend union conferences and lead seminars at branch and regional union meetings. Our work continues.

If your Branch Meeting would like some input on work stress, please contact us via the website or direct to our Convenor at iandraper@workstress.net.

**UNIONS are getting the message on Work Stress**

In a new survey, 90% of health and safety reps have identified stress as one of the main hazards in the workplace. Responding ahead of next month’s European Health and Safety Week, reps explicitly placed stress along with other known causes of stress such as bullying and harassment, violence and threats, overwork and long hours, as the most serious workplace concern. We would advise all H&S reps to check that employers:

- have a policy and procedure on workplace stress and bullying,
- has risk assessed stress as a workplace hazard and put in place appropriate measures to prevent and control;
- that these policies, procedures, and risk assessments either take into account or take a similar approach to the HSE’s management standards for work-related stress;
- raise these issues with the employer as appropriate.

Use the stress audit tools in our WORK STRESS handbook, here modelled by Len McCluskey!

Promote the HSE Stress Management Standards in your workplace

Carry out a Stress audit within your H&S Inspection and include findings in your next written report

Fight the cuts in H&S and the worsening of pay and conditions

Fight the TTIP campaign which threatens to affect work and workers’ rights in the UK

Check out the [TUC new advice](https://www.tuc.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/health-and-safety) and guidance on [workplace stress](https://www.workstress.net)
What better way to get more informed about Work Stress!

Our Annual Conference

Saturday November 22nd to Sunday 23rd, 2014

What next? Tackling work-stress in an uncertain future - we're
dying to ease the burden on business!

HILLSCOURT CONFERENCE CENTRE, REDNAL, BIRMINGHAM B45 8RS

Speakers and workshop sessions will examine the future of health and safety including particular reference to the mental health and gender in the workplace. It will provide a forum for discussion for Safety Representatives and others on the front line of combating work-stress the 21st century epidemic.

- Speakers Dr David Whyte, Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology Dept., Liverpool University; co-author with Steve Tombs and others "Reappraising Regulation - the politics of regulatory retreat in the UK"
- Tracey Harding, National Officer H&S, UNISON
- Rebecca Norris, NHS Scotland, Work and Wellbeing
- Jeffry Zindani, Solicitor
- Conference Chair, Carolyn Jones, Director, Institute of Employment Rights, Liverpool

Workshops will include:-
Corporate Violence and Work, Gender and Stress, Raising H&S Issues for the General Election, Legal Update on Stress Cases, Data gathering for Risk Assessments, Job Insecurity and Stress, Work-Stress and excessive workloads and more

Prices held at 2013 level - places are still available, but accommodation is fast being filled

To access the booking details and form via PDF and MS Word follow the links!

And don’t forget you can follow us on:

Twitter @workstressuk

Facebook : UK National Work Stress Network

Website : www.workstress.net