

No. 119 /26

22nd April 2026

**To: All Branches**

## **International Workers' Memorial Day 2026**

### **Remember the Dead. Fight for the Living — Addressing Psychosocial Hazards at Work**

Dear Colleagues,

On International Workers' Memorial Day, 28 April 2026, workers and trade unions around the world will come together to remember those who have died, been injured, or made ill because of work — and to demand action to prevent further harm.

International Workers' Memorial Day (IWMD) commemorates those workers. We are calling upon CWU Branches, Regions, Safety Forums, Reps and members to please support your local IWMD events and come together to remember those who have lost their lives to work, been injured or disabled and to further renew our trade union commitment to fight for the safety and health of the living and make workplaces and working methods safer.

**Psychosocial hazards**—including work-related stress, excessive workloads, long and unpredictable hours, job insecurity, bullying, harassment, workplace violence, and the misuse of technology and surveillance are among the leading causes of work-related ill health worldwide.

The continued importance of International Workers' Memorial Day is captured in this TUC timeline. [Workers Memorial Day: a timeline | TUC](#) which details some of the events in British labour history where employer and government failures led to the preventable deaths of workers. It also includes dates which mark when trade unions won key legislative change to protect rights to safety at work.

### **List of IWMD Local Events**

[Workers' Memorial Day - 2026 | Megaphone UK](#)

The TUC and Scottish TUC have published the details of a list of many local events across England, Scotland, and Wales which are taking place from 24<sup>th</sup> April right through to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026, the above link has details of these events.

### **TUC Cymru have also organised a Wales' National Workers' Memorial Day event.**

Here is the link to register for the event [TUC CYMRU - Workers Memorial Day 2026 Registration Form](#)

TUC CYMRU – Workers' Memorial Day 2026 event details:

Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2026

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Venue: Unite Building, 1 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9SD

Food and hot drinks will be available from 10:00, with the ceremony beginning at 10:30. Smart, dark clothing is requested.

### **Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) WMD Event**

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) normally mark International Workers' Memorial Day with a wreath laying ceremony at the IWMD Commemorative Tree in the grounds of the Parliament Buildings Stormont Estate, Stormont Ct, Belfast BT4 3LP. For further event details email:

[info@ictuni.net](mailto:info@ictuni.net)

Many more events will take place on International Workers' Memorial Day 2026 which may not be officially listed. We therefore advise that enquiries should be made with local Trades Councils and other Trade Unions, Local Authorities, Hazards, and other campaign organisations for details of local IWMD events that Branches and Reps may further wish to support.

### **CWU 2026 International Workers' Memorial Day Poster**

A CWU Workplace poster is attached to this LTB, which draws attention to this year's theme of: **Addressing Psychosocial Hazards at Work**. Also attached is a statement from Dave Ward, General Secretary, for International Workers' Memorial Day.

### **'Light up Purple' CWU campaign for IWMD**

The 'Light Up Purple' campaign continues to grow in the name of the CWU since 2022. We invite and encourage any CWU members or IWMD activists to continue to ask for local landmarks, buildings, bridges, town halls to 'light up for IWMD' to remember the estimated **2.7 million workers who die globally each year because of occupational accidents or work-related diseases**.

A few of the many landmarks, buildings, bridges that will be lighting up purple on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 are listed via the link below, which also includes an updated link to the latest 'Light up Purple' Sway webpages: [CWU LIGHT UP PURPLE CAMPAIGN 2026 | Megaphone UK](#)

If you are interested in more information on the Global IWMD events campaigns and further guides and news items, you can visit the 28April.org website which contains details of the hugely valuable work undertaken by Hazards magazine and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). [28 April | Remember the dead, fight like hell for the living](#)

This LTB is shared on behalf of CWU Central Services.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact:

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# WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY 2026

*Occupational health and safety:  
A fundamental right at work*

THE CWU CALL FOR THE REMOVAL OF TOXIC WORKPLACE STRESSORS CAUSED BY HIGH TURNOVER RATES, POOR WORK-LIFE BALANCE, UNFAIR WORK PRESSURES, UNREALISTIC WORK TARGETS, LOW MORALE, AND LACK OF WORKER RECOGNITION.

*Remember The Dead, Fight For The Living*

CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND RISKS  
FOR WORKERS

ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE AND  
PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM

REMOVING ASBESTOS  
AND RAAC FROM EVERY  
WORKPLACE

LIGHT UP  
PURPLE  
FOR IWMD



**WORKERS  
MEMORIAL DAY**

**28 APRIL 2026**

*To find out more about the CWU  
'Light Up Purple' campaign email  
Health & Safety Policy Assistant  
Jamie McGovern: [jmcgovern@cwu.org](mailto:jmcgovern@cwu.org)*



*The communications union*

  
DaveWardGS

   
CWUNews

  
The Communications Union

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***Every year on 28th April, International Workers' Memorial Day is observed across the world to remember workers who have lost their lives, been injured, or become ill as a direct result of unsafe or unhealthy working conditions.***

***The CWU will continue to take part in International Workers' Memorial Day events throughout the UK to pause, reflect, and honour all those who have been lost due to unsafe work. This day serves as a solemn reminder that behind every statistic is a story — a name, a family, and a worker community forever changed by a preventable workplace tragedy.***

***It is also a call to action: to strengthen workplace safety, demand better protections, and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that workers' welfare remains a fundamental, non-negotiable priority.***

***International Workers' Memorial Day is a hugely significant day for the trade union movement, to not only remember all workers who have died from workplace injury or illness, but to also renew our dedication to fighting for safer working environments for everyone.***

***Dave Ward, General Secretary, The Communication Workers Union.***

