

Workshop report: Promoting and protecting Health and Safety

Since the 2010 election Health and Safety in the workplace has come under massive attack from a purely ideological perspective, and continues to be under threat from tory dogma. These attacks were justified by media claims that “elf and safety has gone mad”. So what can we do to challenge this erosion of Health and Safety Regulations?

Our workshop considered the myths and misinformation that have poisoned the public perception of Health and Safety during recent years. It examined the erosion of H&S protection since 2010 and will discuss ways in which a more positive Workplace Safety agenda can be promoted. We explored ideas for campaigning and influencing, learning from your experiences, both the successful and the not so successful!

We started with a presentation of why Health & Safety was so necessary. Highlighted the concerns of its erosion over the last 20 years.

We asked delegates “What Campaigns have you seen to promote Health & Safety? “

Campaigns on social media:

change.org

38 degrees

Sum of us

International Workers Memorial Day

Statue of the Unknown Worker

FAK

Asbestos group campaigns

Parliamentary groups

Specific issue weeks: Bullying. Mental health etc.

We asked delegates: what Areas, Institutions, People do need to influence

People down the pub

Media local, print, radio, TV

Parents

Radio phone ins

Messages to widen in schools

Lords, MPs Cllrs assembly members, MEPs

Political parties

UNIONS

Community organizations

Churches,

School leavers

Primary school children

Pre-school children

Next generation

Preparation for children

General Public

Chamber of commerce

Trades councils

Federation of small businesses

CBI

Support networks for business

Employees and colleagues

Health visitors, midwives,

Social workers

Any workers delivering a service to the public

We asked delegates: How can you personally increase awareness of Health & Safety?

Respond to letter to media, phone INS, newspapers

Challenge misinformation

Take new knowledge back to health and safety workplace

Foreseeability

Lobby local MP, write, and visit surgery,

Member of any political party? Using local procedures, petitions, suggestions for policy

Use Social media: Twitter. Facebook. Tumblr

Put questions about myths into Pub quizzes

Make a business case >>> follow the money >> cost of injury

Chamber of commerce: occupational health unit for small businesses?

Insurance companies that provide public liability?

Promote videos from YOU TUBE

Feeding back to the union

Promote H&S is important for everyone and effects everyone

Raising more awareness in schools

Ensure H&S on agenda at every meeting

Promote positive response and challenge negativity

Developing pictures posters for walls

Campaigning on changing environments for children while
challenging the myths

Promote concept that We Can Change our environment

H&S as key element in local political campaigning

Use hazards groups

Improve H&S knowledge for children,

Use your local trades' council to Push H&S policy

Use events to promote H&S positively such as religious festivals,
carnivals,

Produce and promote Public information