



Scottish Hazards Conference 2012

The annual Scottish Hazards Conference was held on Thursday 15 November 2012 at the STUC. It was attended by more than 100 delegates. Delegates heard from John Finnie, MSP for Highlands and Islands and a member of the Justice Committee and Lewis MacDonald, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Justice. They heard 'Voices from the Shop Floor' - H&S activists across industrial sectors, unions and workplace issues; and, most importantly, they heard from each other about health and safety action delegates are taking in workplaces across Scotland. A more detailed write up of the conference will be put on the website soon.

28th Anniversary of the Bhopal Disaster

The 3rd of December is the 28th anniversary of the 1984 Bhopal Gas Leak which is now thought to have killed at least 25,000 people. Survivors of the disaster and those born since then continue to suffer from the effects of the gas and from the toxins still leaking from the factory site into Bhopal's water. Bhopali's continue their inspirational struggle for clean water, for good and free health care, for the site to be cleaned up, for compensation and for Dow Chemical to accept responsibility for all of this.

In September, the Scottish Friends of Bhopal and others organised a Bhopal Survivor's Tour in Scotland, England and Ireland. A report of that Tour can be found [here](#).

One of the various initiatives that have grown out of the Tour is the *Dow - Have a Heart Campaign*. Those of you who met Safreen, one of those who came on the Tour and one of the founders of Children Against Dow, will have heard her story about Bhopal Children sending the Indian Prime Minister a heart since he appeared to have none! The Dow - Have a Heart campaign has grown from this. There is a new [website for this campaign](#). We are asking everyone in the Hazards Campaign to mark the Anniversary in some way - one good one would be to send Have a Heart cards to Dow!

Simon Pickvance

Many of us are mourning the death and celebrating the life of Simon Pickvance who died on Friday, 23 November. Rory O'Neill, Editor of Hazards Magazine wrote: "Simon Pickvance, our friend, brilliant colleague and consummate internationalist and networker died on Friday. He had been diagnosed with [mesothelioma](#) two years ago, a consequence of one-time day job as a bricklayer as he developed innovative, worker-oriented occupational health support in primary care" to read more about Simon, see our [Scottish Hazards website](#).

Nominations are invited for the Frank Maguire Health and Safety Award

The STUC is seeking nominations for the Frank Maguire Health and Safety Award to be presented at the STUC Annual Congress in Perth on 16/18th April. This award was recently renamed in memory of the late Frank Maguire, Senior Partner at Thompsons Solicitors, exceptional health and safety campaigner and a lifelong supporter of the STUC and the trade union movement in Scotland.

If you know of safety rep or group of representatives who excel in the promotion of high standards of health and safety in their workplace further information can be found on the STUC website [here](#) . If you feel that your work is worthy of recognition please discuss this with your full time official with a view to a nomination being submitted in your name.

Should you wish to discuss this further please call Ian Tasker, Assistant Secretary on 0141 337 8100 or e-mail itasker@stuc.org.uk .

New call for action by the Alliance for Cancer Prevention

A dramatic policy switch to eliminate exposure to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) must be the main focus of the EU's EDC strategy (1) currently being reviewed in order to address the shocking levels of breast cancer caused by work. The Alliance for Cancer Prevention demands a refocus of the EDC strategy in the wake of new research which shows working in certain jobs can elevate women's breast cancer risk. The international case control study (2) led by the University of Stirling's Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Research Group (OEHRG) found that women working for 10 years in jobs classified as highly exposed increased their breast cancer risk by 42 per cent. [Read more and find a link to the research.](#)

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