

Air Pollution: A Trade Union Issue

Air pollution is Public Health AND Occupational Health Emergency
We work/live in toxic cocktail of chemicals including traffic pollution
Need Integrated Action to cut toxic substances at all levels
System Change, Radical Change: Green New Deal
Trade Union involvement at work is vital





Just Transition

- All solutions must be fair, just and reduce health /income /social inequalities not make them worse or penalise the poorer
- Poorer workers must not be made to pay the price for air pollution solutions –e.g. banning older polluting cars, congestion charging, car park fees at work etc. which do not taken into account & make adjustments for social/income inequalities
- Poorer workers drive older more polluting cars, public transport may be inadequate, not run during unsocial hours working
- Many people need cars -rural workers where public transport inadequate, disabled people, families with disabled, sick or elderly members
- Need subsidies for poorer workers to buy cleaner cars e.g. proposed Labour Party Electric Car scheme?
- Jobs must not be lost
- Trade Unions must be involved in decisions to ensure Just Transition

Air pollution: We are all at risk but some more than others

- All at risk: @work @home @school, in the environment- but not equally
- Double, triple whammies: workers in worst jobs exposed at work, often live nearer worst traffic pollution, near old industrial contaminated sites, and have children at schools in most polluted areas... and our sperm, eggs and developing foetus exposed to toxic soup of substances in the air at work, at home, while travelling – multiple and generational exposures
- Children among the worst affected by air pollution.- height puts them closer to car
 exhausts, growing bodies more susceptible to many pollutants, particularly
 vulnerable to health risks including asthma, reduced lung capacity, impaired brain
 & other development issues, reduced life expectancy & higher risk of developing
 cancer. Young people may suffer depression/psychosis
- Richer folk can buy cleaner air to live, work & send kids to school in
- Air pollution is an Equality, Social Justice, Just-Transition, Fairness issue
- It's about us as workers, and our children, our families and future This makes it a Trade Union Issue

Trade Union Clean Air Charter





TUCAN Charter: Framework for Unions to act Occupational Health/Env. concerns of workers

- >40,000 die p.a.in UK due to external air pollution and millions made ill- lung, heart, cancers + more
- Ten of thousands die of cancer, heart and lung disease etc. due of exposure to air pollution at work and millions made ill
- Air pollution due to work activity + commuting = major health issue employers & national /local strategies ignore, must be tackled together
- Important issue for workers/families from before conception to old age, damaging for growth/ development of babies & young children

Guidance on Air Pollution for Union Reps

http://www.greeneriobsalliance.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/TUCAN-Guidance-for-TU

leaving decent work means being able to breathe clean air at work. The reality for most workers is nat the air they are exposed to at work and on the work journey is polluted. There is very little cknowledgement of this in most government and local authority clean air policies. Government assing it over to local authorities to sort out.

Air pollution is an occupational health issue There is rightly a public outry about air pollution as a public health emergency. But it is also an occupational health emergency. The World Health Organisation (WHO) make it clear that having decent work means being able to breathe clean air at work. They estimate that occupational decent on the properties of the proper

Yet you wouldn't think this was the case if you read all the consultation documents and public policy pronouncements on the subject. Even many of the environmental organisations who are campaigning for clean air fail to properly acknowledge this fact. Transport is responsible for over half of pollutants, and most of these journeys are directly or indirectly related to work activities. When you factor in the pollution generated by other business activities linked to production and energy use it is clear which is the number one source compared to domestic and other factors.

Air pollution is a trade union issue If work is the main source of pollution it follows that is an issue for unions. Workers are exposed to harmful levels in their journey to and from work, and in the workplace itself whether it is indoors or outdoors. The range of pollutants and building design mean that it will be a combination of both, and that one source will often increase exposure levels in the other. Unions have a vital role in improving health and safety standards and air poliution is no exception.

Air pollution is a climate change issue.

Although they may seem to be two very different issues, climate change and air pollution are closely interlinked, so by reducing air pollution we also protect the climate. Air pollutants include closely interlinked, so by reducing air pollution we also protect the climate. Air pollutants include others—but there's a big overlap; he two other interact with each other. For instance, air pollution in the form of particulate matter from diesel engines is circulated around the globe, ending up in them slightly, teading to less surfight reflected back; into space, and contributing to less surfight reflected back; into space, and contributing to global warming.

All follition its stocial stratic may workers live in neighbourhoods that have higher in addition to their occupational exposure, may workers live in neighbourhoods that have higher here in the property of the property o

The laws and enforcement protecting workers from air pollution is deeply flawed. A new Clean Air Act and backed up by improvements in health and safety law should be enacted. Unions working with other campaigners will need to ensure any statutory framework is effectively enforced. At a regional and local level unions can form alliances that monitor and improve standards for their local communities.



TUCAN CHARTER:

Demands on Government

http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/air-pollution/

- 1.New Clean Air Act enshrining right to breathe clean air @ work too: Workers have been the canaries
- 2. Update Health & Safety at Work Law
- 3. Ensure effective enforcement
- 4. Involve the workforce
- 5. Protect Jobs
- 6. Rapidly expand clean, cheap public transport systems plus increasing cycling and walking

http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/GJA-TU-Clean-Air-CharterEMAIL.pdf

Action at work		10. Employer information — Has the employer provided any information to staff about fruits of air pollution in specific boations or travel routes, or jobs and groups of workers? 11. Trade Union information — Has your union developed any pollution? 12. Branch lead - is there anyone in the branch who is co-ordinating union work on air pollution? 13. Membership awareness — Has any information been provided by the union on air pollution risks?								
Find out the current state of play by discussing workplace air pollution with members and other reps. You may want to use the checklist below to help you get an overall picture. Obtain access to										
current policies or procedures. You may need to contact a member of management to provide some of the information. To start with focus on those areas, workers or jobs that may be at particular risk. You may find useful information by contacting local organisations. This could include the local authority who should have an air quality action plan that may provide information on monitoring stations near to work locations. Community and campaign groups may also have access to useful information and resources. Air pollution: checklist for union zeps.										
					All pollution effectivity	or annount	o por	14. Links with external organisations – Have any		
					Topic	Yes / No	Comments	links been made with campaign groups to get support for information, monitoring, local authority measurements and related policies?		
 Pollution hotspots – Are there any specific areas where you feel there may be a risk from air pollution? 			15. Obtaining data on pollution levels – Are you interested in testing pollution levels in your							
Groups of workers – Are there particular types of jobs that are at risk from air pollution, or vulnerable			workplace and / or receiving information on monitoring sites near your location?							
workers who may have pre-existing conditions that put them at risk?			TUCAN - Are you interested in working towards the aims of the TUCAN charter by running or becoming involved in an event to promote it?							
 Policy – Is work-related air pollution referenced in the health and safety policy and / or any other policy document? 			arrange at are greater to provide the							
4. Indoor exposure levels – Have measurements been taken of pollution levels inside the building?			Air Poliution sources of information TUCAN - Clean Air Charlet him livewy greeners solitone out a wo-content place is you	HORAGUA TIL Clean Ar.						
 Outdoor exposure levels – Have measurements been taken of pollution levels outside the building? 			Charlet MAIL pdf Greener Jobs Alliance - Air pollution online training modules. Free of charge and no re http://www.dreener/obstalliance.co.uk/courses/							
 Changes to work activities / infrastructure - Does your employer carry out environmental impact assessments on air pollution related to future plans? i.e. any changes to sites, buildings, work processes, anything that could impact the environment physically. 			B-monthly newsetter with regular far quality updates Hazards - Hazards Magazine Devel opecal: www hazards org/ Faming 1th Investment Barels opecal wave hazards org/ Faming 1th Investment Barels org/ Diesel out Prevention Factories 1th Investments org/ Diesel out Prevention Factories 1th Investments org/ Diesel out Prevention Factories 1th Investments org/ Hazards 144, October-Devermber 2019. Hazards Infographic Canons and their work courses 1th Investments org/ Diesel out 1 the Investment Infographic Canons and their work courses 1th Investments org/ Investments Infographic Canons and their work.							
 Hazard identification – Have hazards associated with air pollutants been identified? 			Courses hip few manuals organises in strategic arrows an account of the few manuals in the workplace Guide https://www.hun.org.uksites/defaultfilles/Dindividual union resources – Check your union web site Hazards Campaign – www.hazardscampaign.org.uk	leselEchaustWorkplace1.pdf						
Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Risk assessment – Has a risk assessment been undertaken for hazards where there is a risk to workers and / or others			Friends of the Earth https://hendsoftheearth.uk/clean-air UN Air pollution and climate change resources https://www.unierurcomienf.org/news- and-climate-change-law-sides-same-com Client Earth https://www.clientearth.org/air-pollution/	and-stones/story air gollution-						
Consultation – Has there been a discussion about air pollution at the health and safety committee or any other joint management / union forum?			British Lung Foundation https://www.bff.org.uk/support-for-yourar-polution British Safety Council https://www.bff.org.uk/support-for-yourar-polution-to-breathe-iar-go Kings College London Air Quality Network https://www.hondonar.org.uk/John-air Global Action Plan https://www.globalschordon.org.uk/dean-air/about-clean-air							



Air Pollution @work

- Any harmful fumes, aerosols, dust, microbes, gases in air that can be inhaled, ingested or absorbed through skin; ALL substances if they are very small -PM 2.5 micron diameter & smaller; PM 0.3 absorbed directly through skin
- Elements like lead and arsenic; Minerals such as asbestos and silica;
- Compounds and mixtures such as pesticides or solvents, cleaning agents, fragrances, personal care- pollution effect almost equal to traffic pollution?
- Biological agents viruses, bacteria, fungi and prions;
- Second hand tobacco smoke, spice/psychoactive drugs.
- · Endocrine Disrupting chemicals EDCs plasticisers, fire retardants, etc
- Diesel exhaust emissions/ all vehicle emissions: Nitrogen oxides, NOx, Carbon Dioxide,CO2, Carbon Monoxide,CO, Hydrocarbons e.g. Poly aromatic hydrocarbons, PAHs, Particles/soot – Carcinogens, EDCs-
- New hazards such as plastic fibres e.g. from fleeces/carpets/tyres; nanoparticles
- Furniture, carpets off gassing, flame retardants, antimicrobial dust etc

What is air pollution?

- News/Political Agenda = External, Traffic Pollution therefore Environmental & Public Health issue – 40,000 deaths p.a.
- Road/traffic air pollution is also a Workplace & therefore Trade Union Issue:
 - Directly: workers working in traffic/vehicle pollution inside/outside workplaces: drivers, roadside, construction & other outdoor workers; for those working with vehicles inside workplaces train stations, airports, logistics, farms, warehouses, post office, repair shops, drive thru' fast food
 - Indirectly: for those working/going to school/commuting to work/ living on polluting roads- Internal air come from outside
- Non-Traffic Air Pollution: created by work activities; affects workers & if/when it gets out affects public, other workers e.g. factory fumes, incinerator plumes, energy generation by coal, gas, biomass fumes; waste/recycling fumes/dust, extractive industries, fracking, other workplaces; domestic woodstoves & other solid fuel burning.
- Air Pollution is therefore an Occupational and Public Health Emergency

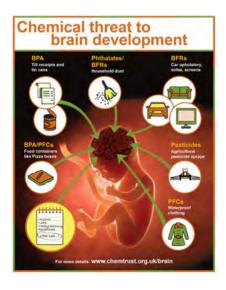
Workplace exposure to hazardous substances in air causes illnesses:

- Lung and heart disease
- · Cancer of all organs of the body
- Liver and kidney disease and impairment
- Reproductive disorders and birth defects
- Neurological disease and impairment of intelligence
- · Endocrine disruption diabetes, obesity, cancers
- Developmental problems of children- In utero/childhood- miscarriages, low birth weight
- Autoimmune illnesses Lupus, arthritis, Wegners Granulamatosis
- Dermatitis and other skin diseases
- Asthma, allergies, sensitisation and irritation of eyes, skin, respiratory systems
- Multiple Chemical Sensitivity
- Dementia, Depression

Chemicals in workplace air

- Asbestos-fabric of buildings built/renovated <year 2000- demolition, renovation, tradesman, teachers, schoolchidren- mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis, pleural thickening
- Flour & tea dust, moulds, microbes, isocyanates cause asthma, respiratory irritation and sensitivity
- Cleaning chemicals & personal care products, fragrances cause skin, eye and respiratory irritation, hormone disrupting disorders and cancers Diesel fumes, silica, wood dust, paint, hair dyes cause cancers Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) found in plastics, pesticides, cleaning products, canning, automotive work, food & many other products cause endocrine system problems- diabetes, obesity, reproductive system cancers, developmental disorders, cognitive and brain damage to foetus—see EDC Dirty Dozen
 - **Organic Solvents** cause skin, eye, respiratory and neurological illness damage to memory, thinking, personality, mood
- Dust generally including office dust heart disease, strokes,

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals -EDCs – some in vehicles fumes, much in indoor air too



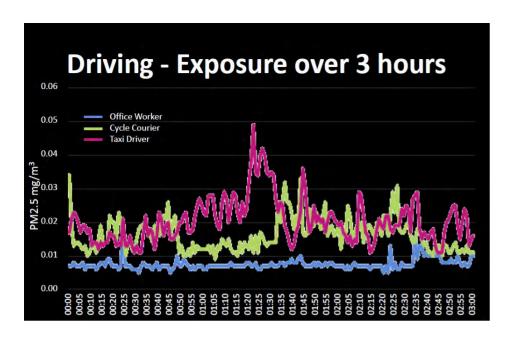
Bis Phenol A- BPA
Dioxins
Atrazine
Phthalates
Perchlorate
Fire Retardants
Lead
Arsenic
Mercury
Perfluorinated chemicals
Organophosphate pesticides
Glycol Ethers

Deadly Work Exposure to substances every year in the UK:

- Hundreds of thousands of workers made ill, tens of thousands killed by hazardous work substances.
- Every one of these illnesses/deaths is preventable.
- Hazards Campaign estimates: 18,000 work cancer deaths chemicals, shift work; 20,000 deaths from heart disease stress, long hours chemicals, dust and fumes; 12,000 deaths from lung, neurological and other illnesses caused by chemicals, dusts, fumes.
- Majority of those 50,000 work deaths caused by exposure to substances in the air at work - mostly work activity exposure
- And we must now also include pollution of air outside workplace - traffic pollution especially – killing 40,000 to 50,000 in UK and 4.5 million (7 million inc. indoor air pollution) globally

Rail Maintenance





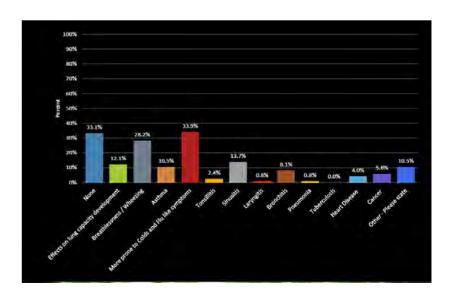
UNITE has a Diesel register



The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations

- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations employers must risk assess all substances and prevent exposure of workers to substances that harm their health at work. There are also specific Regulations covering exposure to Asbestos and Lead.
- Is substances are harmful to health then employers <u>must use the COSHH Control</u> Hierarchy:
- Identify all substances <u>used at</u>, or <u>arising in the course</u> of, work– dust, fumes, gases, combustion & by-products
- All workplaces get your employer to carry our air monitoring what's in the air, how much and what size particles?
- Assess their risks, and if they are hazardous to health in short or long term e.g. carcinogenic, irritant, corrosive, asthmagenic, mutagenic, reproductive toxins, them employers must:
- Eliminate or substitute with safer substances. Think creatively.
- See http://www.subsport.eu/ If this is not possible, then
- Use engineering & other controls to prevent exposure of all workers—isolate, enclose, local exhaust ventilation - and
- Only as a last resort use Personal Protective Equipment

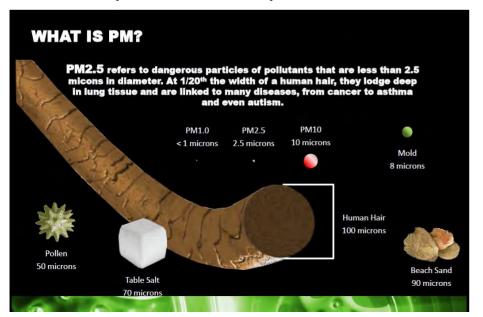
Diesel related ill-health reports



Some of the chemicals in diesel exhaust – No Work Exposure Level for Diesel fumes

Acetaldehyde; acrolein; aniline; antimony compounds; arsenic; benzene; benzopyrene; beryllium compounds; biphenyl; bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate; 1,3-Butadiene; cadmium; carbon dioxide; carbon monoxide; chlorine; chlorobenzene; chromium compound; cobalt compounds; cresol; cyanide compounds; dibutyl phthalate; dioxins; dibenzofurans; 1,8-dinitropyrene; elemental carbon; ethylbenzene; fluoranthene; formaldehyde; inorganic lead; manganese compounds; mercury compounds; methanol; methyl ethyl ketone; naphthalene; nickel; 3-nitrobenzanthrone; 4-nitrobiphenyl; nitrogen oxides; organic carbon; phenol; phosphorus; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons; pyrene; propionaldehyde; selenium compounds; styrene; sulphur compounds; toluene; water; xylene.

Size matters: the smaller the more dangerous to health. Soot particles found in placenta and foetus



UK/WHO ambient air exposure standards for PM & NO²

Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	Annual mean
UK (except Scotland) Exposure standard	25 μg/m3 WHO =10 μg/m3 (25 μg/m3 24hr mean)
Scotland Exposure standard	10 μg/m3

Particulate Matter (PM10)		24 hour mean		Annual mean	
UK (except Scotland) Exposure standard	50 μg/m3 not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year		40 μg/m3 WHO = 20 μg/m3 (50 μg/m3 24 hr mean)		
Scotland Exposure standard	50 μg/m3 not to be exceeded more than 7 times a year		18 μg/m		
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)		One hour mean		Annual mean	
UK Exposure standard 200 μg/m3 not to lexceeded more that times a year			40 μg/m3 = WHO		



DUST: Never just a 'nuisance' depends on substance/size of particulate matter (PM)

Inhalable Dust = 100 microns & less Over 10 microns (PM10) filtered out by nose/throat

Thoracic dust = 10microns & below, gets to lungs

Respirable dust = 5 microns (PM5) and below, gets deep into lungs

WHO say: **PM2.5 microns & less** absorbed into blood crosses blood brain barrier – **NO SAFE LEVEL**

0.3 microns are absorbed through skin **WELs- Work Environment Limits** about 500 in mg/cubic metre, not safe levels

I micron = 1 thousandth of millimetre, 1 millionth of metre. PM10 = particle matter with diameter of 10 microns. Nanometre = 1 billionth of a metre smaller than a virus, size of DNA strand . Nanoparticles of carbon/any material far more hazardous than normal carbon dust



Diesel special: www.hazards.org/

A dirty industry game that means thousands more will die. We warned over 30 years ago that diesel fumes were deadly, with millions at risk at work every day. If the authorities had listened then, today's diesel exhaust driven public health catastrophe could have been averted. In a *Hazards* exclusive, we reveal the criminal acts that left a working generation exposed and cost tens of thousands their lives.

Fuming: http://www.hazards.org/chemical s/fuming.htm

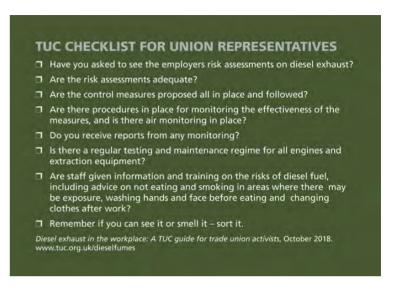
Diesel out prevention factsheet http://www.hazards.org/chemicals/diedies el.htm and Die diesel die poster http://www.hazards.org/images/h144nedp osterlarge.jpg

Hazards 144, October-December 2018.

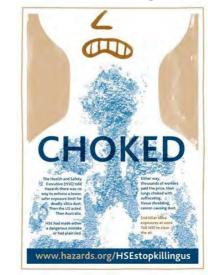
Educate, Agitate, Organise to prevent hazardous exposures @ work

- Use full SRSC Regs functions and hold employers to their legal duties
- Identify ALL substances in air @work- Occ. Hygienist to sample air for substances/dust particles by size
- Make sure to obtain all the up to date Material Safety Data Sheets and check them against EH 40 for WELs and Risk Phrases
- Find out about health hazards of all substances used, made/ arising at work Find out what health problems workers complain of- use quarterly inspections, surveys, questionnaires, ASK THEM!
- Mapping Hazards Mapping, Body Mapping Risk Mapping http://www.hazards.org/diyresearch/
- Employers under a legal duty to carry out risk assessment of hazards to workers/members of the public – get involved to help to make them better
- Link pollution inside work with pollution outside get local monitoring data
- Campaign for new Clean Air Act; pollution control/prevention; just transition

Diesel Exhaust in the Workplace TUC Guide or union activists



The national Hazards Campaign urges Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to halve the workplace exposure limit for silica dust to save 4,000 lives a year. The 'Choked' report from Hazards magazine presents evidence for cutting current legal limit of 0.1 mg/m³ for respirable crystalline silica to no more than 0.05 mg/m³ to reduce the incidence of the lung scarring occupational disease silicosis, lung cancer, autoimmune diseases and other silica-related conditions. @hazardscampaign @hazardsmagazine @hazardseditor



Dear Sarah Albon			
The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) admits its current silica dust exposure standard of 0.1mg/m ¹ poses "significant risks" to workers, Over 1,000 die and many thousands develop debilitating diseases each year. Young workers are developing rapid, severe dust diseases caused by silica exposures today.	Sarah Albon, chief executive		
Many countries have a silica exposure limit half that of the UK or lower still.	Health and Safety Executive		
s the new HSE Chief Executive, you have a chance	Redgrave Court		
to set the UK on a healthier path. We urge you to introduce urgently a safer silica standard no	Merton Road		
higher than 0.05mg/m ² and with a phased move to 0.025mg/m ² .	Bootle L20 7HS		
Thousands of lives depend on it.			
Yours sincerely			

http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/hazards-campaign-calls-for-urgent-cut-to-killer-silica-dust-limit

Resources

- Hazards Magazine <u>www.hazards.org</u> on all types of chemicals and dust: http://www.hazards.org/chemicals/
- Hazards Magazine on cancer: http://www.hazards.org/cancer/
- Continually updated bibliography on occupational cancer: http://cancerhazards.org/#sthash.YRjzU4Kz.dpbssign up for updates
- Put cancer out of work: http://www.hazards.org/cancer/hsecriticism.htm
- Silica CHOKED: www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/hazards-campaign-callsfor-urgent-cut-to-killer-silica-dust-limit
- Hazards/ITUC: <u>Cancers and their work causes</u> http://www.hazards.org/cancer/work
- ITUC/Hazaards Magazine: http://cancerhazards.org/
- Alliance for cancer prevention: http://allianceforcancerprevention.org.uk/
- From Pink to Prevention: https://frompinktoprevention.org/
- Toxics Reduction: http://www.turi.org/ Andy Watterson powerpoint: http://www.scottishhazards.org/resources/conference-reports/scottishhazards-18th-annual-conference-november-2018/

Resources

- Hazards Mapping: DIY Research http://www.hazards.org/diyresearch/
- Risk Mapping: http://www.hazards.org/diyresearch/riskmapping.pdf
- · 'Body of Evidence' Hazards Factsheet 61 1997
- 'Mapping out Work Hazards' Hazards Factsheet 60 1997
- Body Mapping: http://www.hazards.org/diyresearch/bodymapping.pdf;
- http://www.hazards.org/diyresearch/observer.htm;
 http://www.hazards.org/diyresearch/hesperianfoundation.htm;
- Worked Over http://www.hazards.org/workedover/index.htm
- Surveying the damage; http://www.hazards.org/diyresearch/workersknowbest.htm
- Get Mapping 2017 : http://www.hazards.org/images/h134centre1000.jpg
- Hazards Campaign Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations guide: http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/safetyrepstoolkit.pdf
- UNICEF video what PM 2.5s do to kids brains https://twitter.com/UNICEF/status/1070272823762083840

Resources

- Asbestos in Schools AiS: http://www.asbestosexposureschools.co.uk/
- International Ban Asbestos Secretariat IBAS: http://www.ibasecretariat.org/
- Join Union Asbestos Committee: JUAC http://www.juac.org.uk/
- Greener Jobs Alliance
 http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page_id=31
- Module on Air pollution as TU issue: http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page_id=714
- TUC Diesel: www.tuc.org.uk/dieselfumes
- Hazards Diesel Special: http://www.hazards.org/chemicals/fuming.htm
- http://www.hazards.org/chemicals/diediesel.htm
 http://www.hazards.org/images/h144nedposterlarge.jpg

Greater Manchester Hazards Centre

- Janet Newsham
- · Coordinator of Greater Manchester Hazards Centre
- · Acting Chair Hazards Campaign
- Windrush Millennium Centre
- 70 Alexandra Road
- Manchester
- M16 7WD
- 0161 636 7558
- Twitter:@jnewsham
- Facebook:
- Greater Manchester Hazards Centre
- We Didn't Vote to Die at Work
- Families Against Corporate Killers
- Hazards Campaign: http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk
- · @hazardscampaign and @Jnewsham and @HildaPalmer