

## Who should attend

The conference will be of great interest to trade unionists, employment lawyers, academics and students. It will be of particular interest to Health and Safety Officers.

## How to book

To reserve your place, complete the form below and send your cheque, made payable to IER, to Institute of Employment Rights, The People's Centre, 50-54 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD. Fax 0151 702 6935.

## CPD, NPP and EPP accreditation

This conference counts for 5 credit hours under the Law Society's Continuing Development Scheme and the General Council of the Bar's New Practitioners' Programme and Established Practitioners' Programme.

## Additional Information

Details of nearby hotels are available from the office. Name changes are accepted up until the time of the event. Delegates who advise IER of their cancellation more than 15 working days in advance will receive a credit note with 10% deduction for administration.

## How to get there

Nearest stations are: Kings Cross and St Pancras (tube and British Rail)

## Cost

IER subscribers and members	£75.00
Trade unions	£90.00
Commercial	£220.00

The cost of the conference does not include lunch.

## Booking form

Please reserve places at the Quality of Working Life conference at £

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Please invoice me/I enclose a cheque for £

Return completed form to IER, The People's Centre, 50-54 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD. Fax 0151 702 6935.



# the quality of working life:

# promoting a healthy agenda

## conference

6th february 2008

9.30am-4.30pm

*at the* UCU Conference Centre,  
Britannia Street, London WC1



*organised by*  
The Institute of Employment Rights

# about the conference

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In August 2007, following an explosion which killed nine people, ICL Plastics were fined a mere £400,000 for health and safety breaches. Such a penalty graphically demonstrates how negligent companies can cut costs at the expense of workers' lives without fear of adequate financial and other legal consequences.

Statistics for 2006/07 show fatalities in the workplace up by 11 per cent on the previous year, a five year high. Prominent among the worst sectors are construction and agriculture. Meanwhile, fewer than one in five major accidents are now investigated, and the numbers of prosecutions taken and enforcement notices issued have continued to fall dramatically.

The Health and Safety Executive's increasing emphasis on less enforcement and more voluntary approaches has been dictated by a lack of funding. Worse is likely to come. The HSE faces a 15 per cent budget cut by 2011 to meet Treasury efficiency targets.

So is it time to reconsider our approach to delivering health and safety at work? Does the modern day fragmented labour market demand a new framework of law? Do the often unrepresented and increasingly undocumented workers, need a clearer framework of regulation within which to work? Would the development of a Quality of Working Life Bill clarify and streamline the duty of care still expected of our employers?

The Institute is keen to develop these ideas and this conference can kick-start the debate. Nor should the discussion be confined to strictly health and safety issues. A quality of working life focus could include work/life balance, flexibility, hours and holidays, benefits, insurance industry, rehabilitation, discrimination, job-security, intensification of work, supply chains and more.

With all these issues to discuss it's crucial that trade unionists share information and discuss the way forward for health and safety. Phil James, will lead contributions from academics, trade unionists and legal practitioners and provide a critical examination of key areas of current policy development. The aim of the conference will be to identify what more needs to be done to protect the health, safety and well-being of workers as they go about the task of earning a living.

# programme

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- 9.30 Registration
- 9.50 Welcome from Chair, *Carolyn Jones*
- 10.00 Trends in work-related harm and how to improve them  
*Professor Phil James, Oxford Brookes University*
- 10.25 Are Stress Management Standards enough? The case for a Quality of Working Life Act  
*Simon Pickvance, Sheffield Occupational Health Advisory Service*
- 10.50 Worker representation: what works and what should be done?  
*Professor David Walters, Cardiff University*
- 11.15 Tea and coffee
- 11.30 Corporate Manslaughter and Director Duties  
*David Bergman, Centre for Corporate Accountability*
- 11.55 Collective Bargaining and Health and Safety: Case Studies from the Shop Floor, *Susan Murray, UNITE:T&G*
- 12.15 Questions
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.30 Health and Safety under Brown, *John McDonnell MP*
- 1.55 The new European health and safety action programme and surrounding deregulatory pressures, *Dave Feikert*
- 2.20 Promoting an Agenda for Better Jobs  
*Debbie Hutchings, UNITE:Amicus*
- 2.40 HSE: a review of current policy, funding and future prospects  
*Steve Kay, Prospect*
- 3.0 Tea and coffee
- 3.15 Corporate Manslaughter – an update  
*Professor Steve Tombs, Liverpool John Moores University*
- 3.40 *Hilda Palmer/Rory O'Neil - Hazards*
- 4.00 Questions and discussion
- 4.30 Close