

new Labour for Britain

The Labour Party

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WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY 28 APRIL, 2010

Workers Memorial Day is an important reminder for each of us of those who have lost their lives at work or as a result of their work. I know trade unionists across the country will be taking time on this day to remember those who have died and to think of those who have been seriously injured or made ill through work.

This is the first year that Workers Memorial Day is officially recognised by the UK Government, and I am proud that the Labour government did this. Britain has an internationally envied record on ensuring workers health and safety at work. But we should always strive to do more.

It is fitting that this year's theme for Workers Memorial Day is 'Unions make work safer'. Union Health and Safety Reps work every day in this country to enforce the laws that are in place to protect people, ensuring that workers and their families are spared the dreadful consequences of deaths and injuries at work. I pay tribute to their tireless efforts on behalf of all of us.

Labour has always taken Health and Safety very seriously and continues to improve on the legislation that is in place. Earlier this month the new Tower Cranes regulations came into force. We brought in the Gangmasters Licensing Act after the Morecombe Bay cocklepickers tragedy and our manifesto commits to extending the GLA to construction if the evidence shows that is the best way to enforce employment rights.

So let us remember those who have sadly lost their lives and realise that the best tribute that we can pay them is to continue the fight to keep work safe.

Gordon Brown