

### 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 anyone involved in health and safety issues.

### 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. Or book online at [www.ier.org.uk/events/](http://www.ier.org.uk/events/) or email [carolyns@ier.org.uk](mailto:carolyns@ier.org.uk)

### CPD, NPP and EPP accreditation

This conference counts for 3 credit hours under the Law Society's Continuing Professional 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

Train: Lime St Station (British Rail) and Central Station (Merseyrail) 5 minute walk away. Bus: 500 from Liverpool John Lennon Airport to City Centre.

### Cost

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

**Please Note:** The cost of the conference does not include lunch.

### Booking form

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ places at the Health and Safety 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 or book online at [www.ier.org.uk/events/calendar](http://www.ier.org.uk/events/calendar)

THE  
INSTITUTE  
OF  
EMPLOYMENT  
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# a north west conference

## health and safety:

## a new agenda at work?

Tuesday 13th July 2010  
9.30am - 4.00pm

*at the Adelphi Hotel, Lime Street,  
Liverpool*

*organised by*  
The Institute of Employment Rights

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EMPLOYMENT  
RIGHTS

# about the conference

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Workers in the UK are suffering from a crisis in the enforcement of workplace safety regulations. Moreover, evidence suggests that hard working health and safety reps are facing victimisation and blacklisting when they try to fill the enforcement gaps left by lack of HSE inspection.

With Labour's election victory in 1997, there seemed to be a renewed impetus for enforcement: between 1997/98 and 1999/00, HSE prosecutions rose by 20%. Since then, however, HSE enforcement activities have declined markedly, not least within the context of the Government's rolling out of the Hampton Agenda, requiring withdrawal from unnecessary regulatory oversight: from 1997/98 – 2008/09, HSE prosecutions declined by 32%; the number of prohibition notices issued decreased by 29%; and the proportion of RIDDOR reports investigated has fallen by 63% since 1999/2000. Yet in 2008/09, there were 180 fatal workplace injuries – a figure omitting significant numbers of recorded occupational deaths – as well as almost 30,000 major and over 100,000 less serious injuries recorded.

Plainly, deregulation comes at the expense of workers' safety. Yet this is a crisis that is set to deepen. Low levels of government funding for the HSE, and the further pressures generated by economic recession, as well as an internationally fragmented labour market, all point to the need to keep workers' health and safety firmly on the agenda.

This crisis will be detailed in a forthcoming booklet from IER to be launched at this Conference. The authors, Steve Tombs and David Whyte, will comprehensively analyse hitherto unpublished inspection and enforcement data, generated by a series of Freedom of Information requests, to illustrate the deregulatory policy shifts underlying the crisis.

Rita Donaghy, author of a report commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions entitled *One Death is Too Many*, will outline her findings following an inquiry into the causes of fatal accidents in the construction industry. Union speakers from UCATT and the GMB will add their experiences to the debate.

# programme

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- 9.30 Registration, Tea/Coffee
- 9.50 Welcome from Chair  
*Carolyn Jones, Director, Institute of Employment Rights*
- 10.00 The Crisis in Safety Regulation  
Reviewing the figures: *Professor Steve Tombs, Liverpool John Moores University and Dr David Whyte, Liverpool University*  
In response: *David Ashton, Director of Field Operations, Health and Safety Executive*
- 11:00 Q&A
- 11:15 Break
- 11:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **Rita Donaghy**, author of the Report for the DWP, "One Death is too Many: An Inquiry into the Underlying Causes of Construction Fatal Accidents"
- 12.15 Q&A
- 12.30 LUNCH (not provided)
- 1:30 The UCATT Experience: An update on blacklisting  
*Dennis Doody, Executive Committee, UCATT*
- 2.00 Health, safety and welfare issues as an organising tool in the workplace  
*John McClean, National Health and Safety officer GMB*
- 3.00 HSE: Current Trends in inspection and enforcement  
*Neil Hope-Collins, Chair, HSE Branch and PROSPECT NEC member*
- 3.30 Update on the Hazards Campaign  
*Hilda Palmer, Hazards Campaign*
- 4:00 Close