



# Make your workplace safe

Every year thousands of people suffer accidents and ill-health at work. Most of this is avoidable.

In a survey, most members identified health and safety as the most important workplace issue for them.

UNISON has been at the forefront of major campaigns on issues such as stress, RSI, violence and back-pain.

This work depends on us having local safety representatives in every workplace. Why not become one?

**UNISON – organising for health and safety**

# Health and safety – an issue for everyone

Health and safety in our workplaces is a vital issue for each and every one of us. Your employer has a legal duty to provide you with a safe working environment and safe working practices.

If they do not, UNISON is here to challenge them.

But to be effective in our battle for safe conditions we need people in every workplace willing to act as UNISON health and safety representatives. People like you.



The job is important and very rewarding.

If you are interested in becoming a health and safety rep, you will get full training and support from UNISON, as well as paid time off from your employer to carry out your union role.

[www.unison.org.uk](http://www.unison.org.uk)

  
UNISON  
*the public service union*

## **Can anyone become a UNISON safety rep?**

Yes, if you are a UNISON member and even if you are already a steward. It does not matter if you work full or part-time, as long as:

- you are employed in that workplace
- the members vote for you
- the union informs your employer in writing that you are a UNISON safety rep.

## **What does the job involve?**

If you decide to become a rep, your job will be to look after the health and safety needs of the UNISON members who work with you.

You will have powers to:

- investigate complaints on behalf of members
- address problems you notice or that members bring to your attention
- carry out health and safety inspections of your workplace at least four times a year
- demand information if it affects the health and safety of your members
- have time off with pay to do your job as health and safety rep and to attend trade union courses.

The regulations which give you these rights also make it very clear that you are not legally liable for anything you do or fail to do as a safety rep.

## **Do you want to find out more?**

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a health and safety rep, contact your branch secretary or branch health and safety officer now. They can give you full details of the work involved, time off facilities and training provisions.

UNISON needs as much support as we can get to keep up the pressure for decent working conditions. So if any of your colleagues are not yet in UNISON, why not encourage them to join?

## Health and safety – UNISON’s commitment

In UNISON health and safety will always be a major priority.

We’ll use our experience to campaign to ensure that all our members’ working conditions meet proper health and safety standards.

Every year we will be taking up hundreds of cases of management neglect in the workplace.

Our commitment to good health and safety will make employers sit up and take notice.

### Interested?

For further information, ask your branch secretary or branch health and safety officer for details. Or complete the form below and send it to your branch office. Alternatively contact UNISON on **0845 355 0845**

Textphone users call FREEPHONE **0800 0 967 968**

**[www.unison.org.uk](http://www.unison.org.uk)**

**I am interested in becoming a UNISON health and safety rep**

**Name**

**Address for correspondence**

**Postcode**

**Workplace address (if different)**

**Postcode**

**Job title**

**Work telephone**

