

APRIL

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The current FBI statistics estimate that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men will experience some sort of sexual violence in their lifetime.

Child Abuse Awareness Month

Often symbolized awareness actions involve blue ribbon distributions.

4th Thursday: Take Our Daughters to Work Day

Is a public education project of the Ms. Foundation for women, which began in 1990 in response to disturbing research on adolescent girls. Researchers found that during adolescence, girls experience a significant loss of confidence, increase in shyness, eating disorders, negative body image, teen pregnancy, discrimination, substance and sexual abuse.

Research has shown that by intervening with girls before problems take root, adults can help girls to grow up with confidence, in good health and ready to fulfill their dreams. When we plan a day to celebrate girls -- by taking them seriously and listening to their ideas – girls begin to believe in themselves, their abilities, and by extension, their futures. By exposing young women to a variety and diversity of occupations that they can pursue, we expand the opportunities for future generations to secure equal status in the workplace and society.

What can we do?

- Besides getting your daughters to your workplace, work to get them to your Union Hall.
- Your Women's Committee can host a Union event to bring your daughters to the Union Hall to learn more about the union and how union jobs protect workers and provide women an avenue to equal pay and status.
- Plan the tour of you plant to include discussion on how the union has made the workplace safer and more open to women. Introduce them to area stewards and grievors and explain the important jobs they have to police a union contract.
- Be sure that your company's program includes union accomplishments, and if a luncheon is planned, make sure the officers and women's committee is part of the program.
- Consider designing a collective bargaining contract that addresses the needs of women workers, childcare, health and safety issues. Don't forget the press.
- Involve them in your Rapid Response Program for the day; perhaps arrange for a visit to your local political leaders or city hall.

- Join with your coalition partners in the community and plan a demonstration to call attention to sweatshop wages and conditions of women and children around the world that produce U.S. goods. Make the association that solidarity with other young people around the world can be done by raising the visibility of their abuse as workers to create global wealth that they do not share.
- If you don't have a daughter, consider sponsoring a relative or better yet take a child from a children's center or shelter. Become a big sister for someone who has no one.

April 22: Earth Day

This event was first observed internationally on April 22, 1970, to emphasize the necessity for the conservation of the world's natural resources. Starting as a student-led campus movement, initially observed on March 21, Earth Day has become a major educational and media event. Environmentalists use it as an occasion to sum up current environmental problems of the Planet

April 28: Workers Memorial Day/Day of Mourning

In 1984, the Canadian Labour Congress Executive Council declared an annual day of remembrance for workers killed and injured on the job.

The first Worker's Memorial Day was observed in the USA on April 28, 1989. This date was chosen because it is the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the day of similar remembrance in Canada.

The aim of both memorial days is to publicly renew our commitment to "fight for the living" as well as "mourn for the dead" drawing attention to the plight of the 335,000 workers worldwide who die every year as a result of their work, but also campaigning to prevent further deaths, injuries, and diseases.

The canary was once the safeguard miners had against dangerous gas build-up. By taking the canary down in the mine, if the canary died, was a signal to evacuate the mines --- fast. Today, workers exposed to dangerous substances have no canaries to give them advance warning of danger. Wearing yellow ribbons on April 28 is a worldwide observance of this day.

What can you do?

Sponsor a conference in your local and community around health and safety at work. Remember to include women's health issues in the workplace.

Set up a display around the meaning of Workers Memorial Day at you local, public library, schools, shopping centers, etc.

Hold a memorial ceremony at your plant or city hall where the public can join with you to remember those workers lost or injured on the job.

Plant a tree or dedicate a park bench in memory of workers killed at or by their work.

Sponsor a community health fair that provides pre-screenings for work related illnesses and information on safety in general.

Get the city council to fly flags at half mast on the day; perhaps get proclamation passed and hold a ceremony at the city hall.

Have local religious organizations mention Workers' Memorial Day over the weekend.

Issue letters to the editor; ask the press to run a feature on the day and its significance; prepare an article for the paper stating the people in your region injured or killed in job related incidences.

Hold a candle light vigil in honor of those who have been killed at work.

Have your company and companies around the community shutdown for 15 minutes on April 28 to honor those who have been injured or killed in work-related situations.

Pass out yellow ribbons at your workplace, in the city, church, schools, public places.