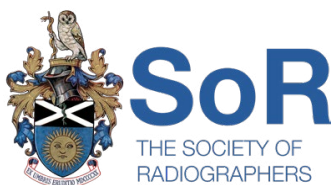


Safety Reps'

Conference 2025

 21 June 2025

 ibis Birmingham New Street Station



A day of CPD and networking.





Contents

Programme	03	Click here
Session Synopsis	04	Click here
Speaker Bios	06	Click here

10:00 - 10:45	45 mins	Registration
10:45 - 10:55	10 mins	Introduction and welcome by Rhys Martin
10:55 - 11:40	45 mins	Assessing the Assessments: A Critical Approach to Employers' Risk Assessment Practices
11:40 - 12:25	45 mins	Workplace Inspections: The Health and Safety Police
12:25 - 13:15	45 mins	Lunch
13:15 - 14:00	45 mins	Racism: A Health and Safety Issue
14:00 - 14:25	25 mins	Trades Union Congress (TUC) Campaigns and the Work of the NHS Staff Council's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Group
14:25 - 14:35	10 mins	Afternoon Break
14:35 - 15:20	45 mins	Lone Working
15:20 - 15:30	10 mins	Summary and close by Rhys Martin

10:55 - 11:40

Assessing the Assessments: A Critical Approach to Employers' Risk Assessment Practices

Risk assessment is a fundamental process in safeguarding workers' health, safety and welfare at work. Employers have a legal duty to carry out suitable and sufficient risk assessment, but what does this mean in practice? What makes an effective risk assessment process? Union health and safety reps have a right to be consulted about risk assessments, so what should we be looking for? This session will consider the risk assessment process and the outcomes that a robust approach should deliver. It aims to empower SoR Reps to critically assess their employer's risk assessments and so help to improve the management of risk in the workplace, making workplaces safer and healthier for all who work there.

*Speaker***Mike Kidd**

Lecturer in Trade Union Education,
College of North East London

[Read bio](#)

11:40 - 12:25

Workplace Inspections: The Health and Safety Police

Workplace inspections are a key part of the safety representatives role but can often fall into the trap of becoming a pseudo-management function. This session will look at ways of using workplace inspections to best represent your members interests and how to use them as a trade union organising tool.

*Speaker***Steve White**

Trades Union Congress (TUC) Tutor, College of Haringey, Enfield and North-East London

[Read bio](#)

13:15 - 14:00

Racism: A Health and Safety Issue

Research has shown that sectoral and occupational segregation on the basis of race and migration status explains the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black workers and communities. The pandemic highlighted different experiences of health and safety for Black workers, often defined by direct or indirect racism and discrimination. We also know that there is a surge in racist violence, abuse and harassment that it is not new and did not suddenly appear. However, there is new confidence among some with racist attitudes to voice their view publicly which has also led to a growth in visibility of the far-right, and incidences of violent disorder and racist attacks.

*Speaker***Quinn Roache**

Policy Officer:
Disability and LGBT+ Equality, Trades Union Congress (TUC)

[Read bio](#)

14:00 - 14:25

Trade Union Congress (TUC) Campaigns and The Work of the NHS Staff Council's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Group

This session will include an outline of the work of the NHS Staff Council's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Group, exploring existing resources of benefit to SoR Safety Reps and new and emerging priority areas within the group's three-year work plan.

Helpful resources for this session:[Health, Safety & Racism in the workplace | TUC](#)[Protecting workers from the risks of violence and racism | TUC](#)*Speakers***Kim Sunley**

Head of Health, Safety and Wellbeing, Royal College of Nursing

[Read bio](#)**Shelly Asquith**

Health and Safety Policy Officer, Trades Union Congress (TUC)

[Read bio](#)

14:35 - 15:20

Lone Working

Employers have a legal duty to manage the health and safety risks of people who work alone. Too often employers fail to identify, assess and control the risks, leaving workers exposed to risks including risks from violence, stress and others. The session will explore why it is a health and safety issue? How we can get employers to carry out their legal duties? What actions health and safety reps can take to prevent the risks that workers face on lone working?

*Speaker***Janet Newsham**

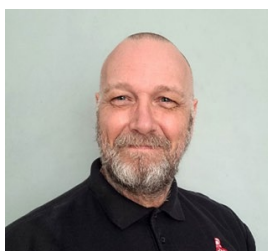
Coordinator, Greater Manchester Hazards Centre

[Read bio](#)

**Mike Kidd**

**Lecturer in Trade Union Education
College of North East London**

Mike has over 30 years of experience as an active trade unionist, during which time he's worked in a range of industrial sectors in a variety of trade union roles. For the last 15 years he has taught trade union education for many different unions and the TUC. His key areas of interest are equality, health and safety, and organising.

**Steve White**

**Trades Union Congress (TUC) Tutor
College of Haringey, Enfield and North-East London**

Steve is a Trades Union Congress tutor from the College of Haringey, Enfield and North-East London, specialising in health and safety. Steve is a former London firefighter and Fire Brigades Union official.

**Kim Sunley**

**Head of Health, Safety and Wellbeing
Royal College of Nursing**

Kim is a Chartered Safety and Health practitioner who has over 25 years experience of working for trade unions dedicated to improving the working environment for members. She is currently Head of Health, Safety and Wellbeing at the Royal College of Nursing and holds the staff side chair of the NHS Staff Council's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Group.

**Shelly Asquith**

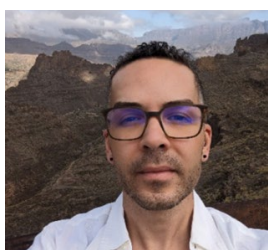
**Health and Safety Policy Officer
Trades Union Congress (TUC)**

Shelly Asquith is the Health and Safety Policy Officer at the Trades Union Congress, the umbrella body for more than 40 trade unions, including the SoR. Shelly works in the TUC's Education team, which helps train hundreds of new reps each year and provides them with tools to organise and take action to make work safer and fairer.

**Janet Newsham**

**Coordinator
Greater Manchester Hazards Centre**

Janet is the coordinator at Greater Manchester Hazards Centre and the Chair of the UK Hazards Campaign. Janet has been a trade union activist for more than 45 years, working in the public, private and not for profit sector. She has represented workers, delivered trade union education and sits on Employment Tribunals and in her current role advises and campaigns on occupational health and

**Quinn Roache**

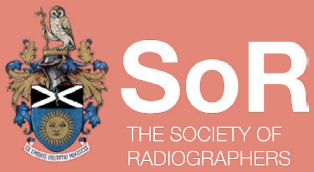
**Policy Officer: Disability and LGBT+ Equality
Trades Union Congress (TUC)**

Quinn Roache is the TUC's LGBT+ Policy Officer working within their Equality and Strategy Department. Previously he worked for the Equality and Human Rights Commission on high profile projects including their Pregnancy and Maternity Work Programme and Home Care Inquiry. He also led on their community engagement projects on a variety of themes including the UNCRPD and increasing LGBT+ hate crime reporting.

**Rhys Martin**

**Health and Safety Policy Officer
Society of Radiographers**

Rhys Martin is the Health and Safety Policy Officer at the Society of Radiographers. Rhys has previously worked for UNISON, NEU and ATL trade unions and started as a health and safety representative for the PCS trade union.



**Presentation slides will be uploaded
to the event hub, post-event.**

🔍 sor.org/safety

