

Join us in
The Big See!

for Breast Cancer Month – October 2005



Women's
Environmental
Network

www.wen.org.uk

Take off the pink ribbon blindfold.
Show your eyes have been opened and you are
not blind to the evidence that chemicals are
linked to the rise in breast cancer.
Take action.



www.unison.org.uk



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Breast Cancer is on the rise. At least 300 women die as a direct result of breast cancer in the UK each week. That's the equivalent to a plane full of women crashing every week of the year. And another two plane-loads of women each week hear they have the disease.

Within the EU every 2.5 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. Every 7.5 minutes a woman dies from the disease. We want to know why!

A growing mountain of research points the finger at chemicals in the environment and in the products we use on a daily basis. Over 300 of these chemicals are now found in our bodies. Everyday products like cosmetics, toiletries, plastics, household cleaners and furnishings contain chemicals thought to contribute to breast cancer.

Yet we are using them blindfolded. Many of these chemicals have never been adequately safety tested and companies don't have to tell consumers what is in most products we buy.

There are things you can do about this. Join our campaigns and take action this October for Breast Cancer Month.

- On October 3rd join us in sending a strong visual message to government and EU legislators. Get together with your colleagues and replay the BIG SEE image with your pink blindfolds for the press and media. Show your eyes have been opened and you are not blind to the evidence that chemicals are linked to the rise in breast cancer.
- Lobby your MEP to vote for a strong REACH, the new draft European legislation to regulate the use of chemicals, which aims to protect health and the environment.
- The first reading of REACH is due in November 2005 - but proposals have already been weakened and are still under attack. MEPs need to know NOW that the public wants them to take action to reduce their exposure to toxic chemicals. Please write to your MEPs and tell them this. Find them at www.writetothem.com
- Read 'Breast Cancer, an Environmental Disease' which sets out the evidence. This new document shows that breast cancer is preventable rather than inevitable. Find it at www.nomorebreastcancer.org.uk

All these actions are being supported by Women's Environmental Network and UNISON. You can find out more about the actions and supporting information on our websites.

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What other action can you take?

- Think about reducing your own use of products such as cosmetics and cleaning products or buying greener products.
- If you are concerned about particular ingredients in products you have purchased, take them back to the retailer and tell them.
- If you're not already a member, you can join WEN or your group or organisation can affiliate to WEN. Go to their website (www.wen.org.uk)
- You can join UNISON too by going to their website (www.unison.org.uk or phoning UNISONdirect free on 0845 355 0845 or textphone 0800 096 7968). If you're already a UNISON member, why not become a Health and Safety Rep and speak up for these issues in your workplace?
- You can continue to support our campaign work to stop breast cancer before it starts by making a donation to WEN.

Your local library will give you access to these websites if you don't have access yourself at work or at home.



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