



Trade Union Clean Air Network (TUCAN) Press Release

Embargoed until 9am, Friday, August 30th, 2024

'We need to talk about indoor air pollution and occupational health'

"How can it be right that there is a UK exposure standard for indoor air pollution at work that is 200 times worse than for exposure outdoors? We call on the Government to act on this double standard as a matter of urgency" says Graham Petersen, TUCAN committee member.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged the international community to invest in clean air to save lives and combat climate change. **UN chief urges investing in clean air to save lives, combat climate change - [China.org.cn](https://china.org.cn)**

In his message for the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, observed on Sept. 7, the UN chief said, *"99 percent of humanity breathes polluted air, leading to an estimated 8 million premature deaths including more than 700,000 children under five."*

Pollution is also choking economies and heating up the planet adding *"fuel to the fire"* of the climate crisis, Guterres warned, stressing that pollution disproportionately affects those most vulnerable in society, including women, children and older persons. *"Yet, pollution is a silent killer that can be stopped,"* he pointed out.

TUCAN's view is that air pollution also disproportionately impacts workers. Many work indoors where there is little legal protection. Like the UN Secretary General, we believe that pollution can be stopped, but only if a legal framework is put in place that forces employers and others to tackle the deadly cocktail of pollutants in the workplace. It also requires workers and unions to be given powers to intervene.

The TUCAN Briefing Paper sets out 20 proposals which need to be actioned to give occupational indoor air pollution the necessary recognition and response. We will be seeking meetings with the Government and other statutory authorities to press for implementation. The Briefing Paper can be accessed through this QR code.



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Notes to editors -The **Trade Union Clean Air Network** (TUCAN) is a coalition of trade unions, the Hazards Campaign and the Greener Jobs Alliance.

The briefing paper *'All in a day's work'* is part of a set of resources that can be found on the TUCAN website **[TUCAN - Greener Jobs Alliance](#)**.

These include a film *'All in a day's work'* (10 minutes) and Guidance *'Workers Guide to action on indoor workplace air pollution'* (11 pages)