

RoadPeace

the national charity for road crash victims
supporting crash victims reducing road danger



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Press release
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One in 75 bereaved by road crashes

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
November 15 2009

New research has revealed that there are over 708,000 people alive in England and Wales who have had a close family member killed in a crash.

For the first time ever, the number of people bereaved by road crashes has been calculated. At a seminar this week, co-hosted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and RoadPeace, to mark the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, it was revealed that there are over 590,000 people alive today who were bereaved by road crashes in England and Wales between 1971-2005¹. This rises to over 708,000 when those bereaved by road crashes in the 1950s and 1960s are included. This equates to 1.3% of the population of England and Wales having had a close family member (partner, child, parent, sibling, grandparent or grandchild) killed in a road crash.

This Sunday, we will commemorate the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, and we will also remember those who, although still alive, suffered the death of a loved one in a road crash. These are the so-called secondary casualties, despite the direct devastation to their lives and families.

Road deaths are projected to become the fifth leading cause of death worldwide by 2030. Remembering the impact on the bereaved—emotional as well as economical—should add even greater weight to the call for action to be taken now to stop road crashes from becoming the next HIV/AIDS.

Amy Aeron-Thomas, Executive Director

A Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was introduced by RoadPeace in 1993 and adopted by the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) as a European Day of Remembrance in 1995, before being adopted by the UN in 2005.

This year's theme is ***From global remembrance to global action***, with the first ever Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety conference being held in Moscow just days later, on November 19-20, 2009. The UK will be represented at Moscow by Paul Clark, the Road Safety Minister, who will also be speaking at the London World Day of Remembrance service. He joins government representatives from around the world addressing the need for a "Decade of Action for Road Safety" and a required investment estimated at \$300 million, if five million lives are to be saved.

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¹ Sullivan R (2009), "*Families bereaved by road traffic crashes: linkage of mortality records with 1971-2001 censuses*", presentation at November 9th 2009 seminar marking the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, co-hosted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and RoadPeace.

Notes to editors

1. On November 9th, 2009, a seminar to mark the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was co-hosted by the Nutritional and Public Health Intervention Research Unit of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and RoadPeace. The three presentations included ***Families bereaved by road crashes, Deaths of cyclists in London, and Do 20 mph speed zones reduce casualties?***
2. A list of UK 2009 remembrance services and events is available on the RoadPeace website. More events from organisations in other countries are featured on www.worlddayofremembrance.org. See our website for more background material including our latest briefing on *Global road deaths*, our *Seven a Day* leaflet and *The Vatican's Ten Commandments for Drivers*.
3. Dr. Etienne Krug, WHO Director of the Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability, has sent a message of support for the World Day of Remembrance that can be seen at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/media/news/2009/16_11_2009/en/
4. On Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November (World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims), a new documentary 'Vaccine for Road Safety', featuring Make Roads Safe global ambassador Michelle Yeoh, will be shown worldwide on BBC World News. The 25 minute documentary, which will be aired four times over the weekend, looks ahead to next week's first Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Moscow, urges national and international action to implement road safety 'vaccines' such as safe road design and speed management, helmets, seat belts and drink driving enforcement and follows the campaign for a Decade of Action for Road Safety. For more information on the First Global Road Safety Conference see the FIA website <http://www.makeroadssafe.org/Pages/home.aspx>