

## **CDC (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention) Announcement**

### **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims — November 21, 2010**

Approximately 1.3 million persons die and 20–50 million are injured in road traffic crashes each year worldwide (1). Every 6 seconds, someone is killed or maimed on the world's roads, including drivers, passengers, motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians (2). World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, November 21, 2010, is a day to remember those who died or were injured as a result of road traffic crashes and to show support to the disabled victims and their families who suffer from road traffic injuries. Remembrance services and flower-laying ceremonies are held in memory of road victims around the world. Police officers, associations supporting families of road victims, governments and communities unite families and friends of those who died or were injured from road traffic crashes in promoting the day through various activities.

WHO, FEVR and RoadPeace have jointly developed a book, *World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims: a guide for organizers*, to provide practical guidance to people or groups on how to plan and organize events on this day .

[http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/road\\_traffic/activities/remembrance\\_day/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_traffic/activities/remembrance_day/en/index.html)

The book gives a brief history of the day, offers suggestions on how to plan the day and provides examples of specific activities that can be organized. We encourage all those concerned with road traffic crashes and their consequences to use this guide to organize annual events in different parts of the world to ensure that the advocacy opportunity of this day is fully realized.

Road crashes are the leading cause of death among persons aged 5–34 years in the United States, the leading cause of death globally for persons aged 10–24 years, and the third leading cause of death globally among persons aged 30–44 years. The economic impact of road crashes also is significant. In low- and middle-income countries, the annual cost of road traffic injuries is estimated at \$100 billion dollars. Road traffic injuries cost countries between 1% and 2% of their gross national product (3).

Most road traffic injuries are preventable by increasing helmet, seat belt, and child restraint use; reducing drunk-driving and speeding; and developing appropriate infrastructure, such as improved road layout and design. In designating the third Sunday of November in every year as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, the United Nations General Assembly also invited member states to implement the recommendations of the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention* (3), and to establish national lead agencies on road safety, along with action plans to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries. In addition, the United Nations has designated 2011–2020 as the Global Decade of Action for Road Safety to address road traffic injury prevention and victim services. The decade is a unique opportunity that all in the public health, transport and development community can seize. The UN's World Day of Remembrance is a global observance and not a public holiday. Additional information on the day of remembrance is available at <http://www.worlddayofremembrance.org>. Additional information on road safety is available from the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration ([www.who.int/roadsafety/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/roadsafety/en/index.html)), the Association for Safe International Road Travel ([www.asirt.org](http://www.asirt.org)), Make Roads Safe ([www.makeroadssafe.org](http://www.makeroadssafe.org)), and CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/index.html>).

The CDC announcement of the World Day of Remembrance appeared today in the MMWR, V November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Vol 59(45):p 1492. A statement of the Secretary General of the UN about World Day of Remembrance appears below.

[http://www.who.int/roadsafety/remembrance\\_day/un\\_roadssafetyday2010\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/roadsafety/remembrance_day/un_roadssafetyday2010_en.pdf)

## References

1. World Health Organization. Global Status Report on Road Safety: Time for Action. Geneva, Switzerland; 2009.

2. FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society. Road Safety “Tag” unites world for Decade of Action (September 24, 2010 release). Accessed 11 November, 2010, from <http://fiafoundation.org/news/archive/2010/pages/roadsafetytagunitesworldfordecadeofaction>.
3. Peden, M, Scurfield, R, Sleet, D, Mohan, D, Hyder, A, Jarawan, E, Mathers, C (Eds). . World report on road traffic injury prevention. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2004.