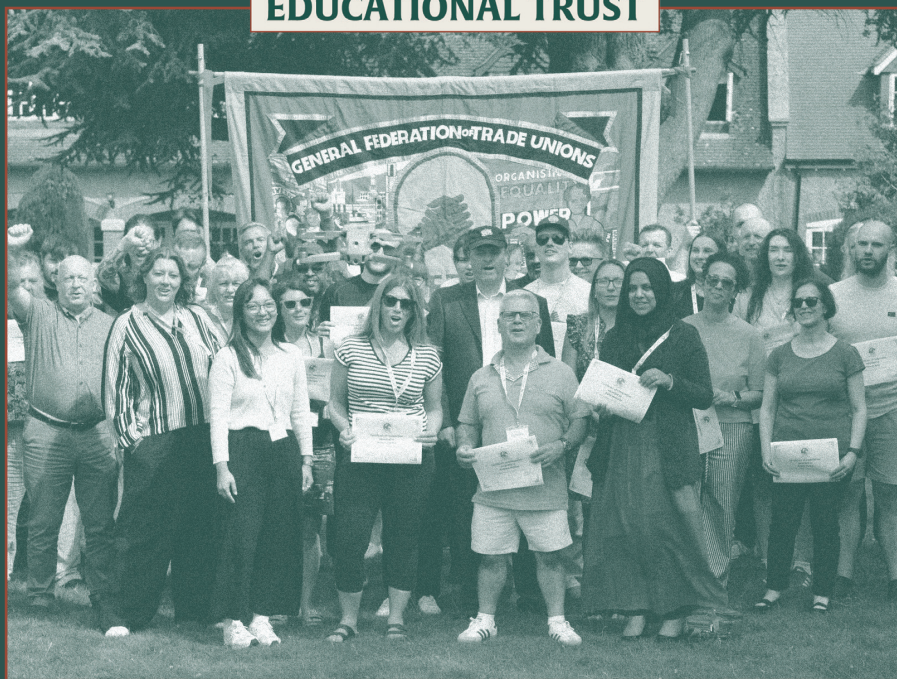




Education Programme 2026 –2027

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Welcome to the General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust's (GFTUET) education programme for 2026–2027.

Across the past three programmes, we have pushed ourselves further each year—because the stakes are rising. Our mission is clear: to educate, organise, and inspire the workplace leaders our movement will need in the 2030s and beyond.

This year, our programme takes a decisive turn. We are focusing our energy on one of the defining challenges of our time—the rise of the far right. Trade union education cannot stand aside from this fight. It must meet it head on.

That is why we are launching two new courses, already trialled in Scotland with the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC), and developed in collaboration with sister unions across the movement.

Rebuilding Solidarity is about more than understanding the problem—it is about action. It brings together hard data, organising strategies, political economy, and the conversational skills needed to confront division, challenge racism, and rebuild unity in our workplaces and communities.

Women's Voices in Challenging the Far Right is a space for women to organise, resist, and lead. It takes on the far right's cynical attempts to present itself as a defender of women and girls—and equips participants to expose and defeat those claims.

Our approach remains rooted in accessibility and collective learning: bringing people together in person, building momentum through follow-up online sessions, and opening up knowledge through free webinars for the whole movement.

But this programme is not just about resisting the far right. It is about renewal. It is about building a stronger, more confident, more united trade union movement—one that is ready to fight and win.

At the heart of this work is Quorn Grange Hotel—our “Worker's Retreat”—a vital space where activists come together to learn, strategise, and build power collectively.

As more of our programme becomes freely available, the role of our Friends of the Educational Trust and our Education Fund becomes ever more critical. They ensure that independent, movement-led education can grow, and that branches, regions, and trades councils can access the tools they need to organise and fight back.

The demand for this education shows the hunger across our movement. Courses fill fast—so book early, get involved, and be part of the fight.

We are ready. Join us.



Gawain Little
General Secretary



Sarah Woolley
President

About GFTU Educational Trust Courses

We all learn in different ways. At the GFTU, we recognise that—and we build our education programme to reflect it.

We are proud to offer learning that is topical, challenging, and rooted in the real struggles facing our movement. That means going beyond the traditional classroom—through conferences, live performances, and spaces that bring ideas to life. Because knowledge is power. And when we learn together, we build the confidence and understanding needed to act: to make informed choices, to support one another, and to strengthen our unions, our families, and our communities.

Whether you are already active or just starting to get involved, there is a place for you here. Our aim is simple: to inspire, educate, and support trade union activists across the UK and beyond. You might be a new member looking to take your first steps, a workplace rep building your skills, a full-time officer, or somewhere in between—wherever you are, this programme is for you.

We all have something to learn at GFTU.

Register for Updates

Stay connected and keep learning. Our regular Education Bulletin shares new opportunities, useful resources, and the latest course updates. Sign up here: gftuet.org.uk/mailling-list.

How to Apply

Browse and book your place at: gftuet.org.uk/education

Attending GFTU Residential Courses

Our courses bring together a diverse and vibrant mix of trade unionists from across the movement. We are committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful space where everyone can participate, learn, and grow—regardless of race, religion, sex, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

Our programmes are led by experienced trade union educators who deliver learning that is interactive, challenging, and grounded in real-world organising. You will be supported every step of the way—before, during, and after your course—especially when it comes to turning ideas into action in your workplace and union. Our residential courses take place at Quorn Grange Hotel in Leicestershire—our own “Worker’s Retreat.” As a GFTU-owned venue, every surplus goes straight back into supporting education and strengthening the trade union movement. Alongside its excellent facilities and welcoming atmosphere, it provides the perfect environment to learn, connect, and organise together. Find out more: quorngrangehotel.co.uk.

Any Questions?

If you’d like to know more about our courses, use our new course look-up available here: gftuet.org.uk/education



OUR PRINCIPLES

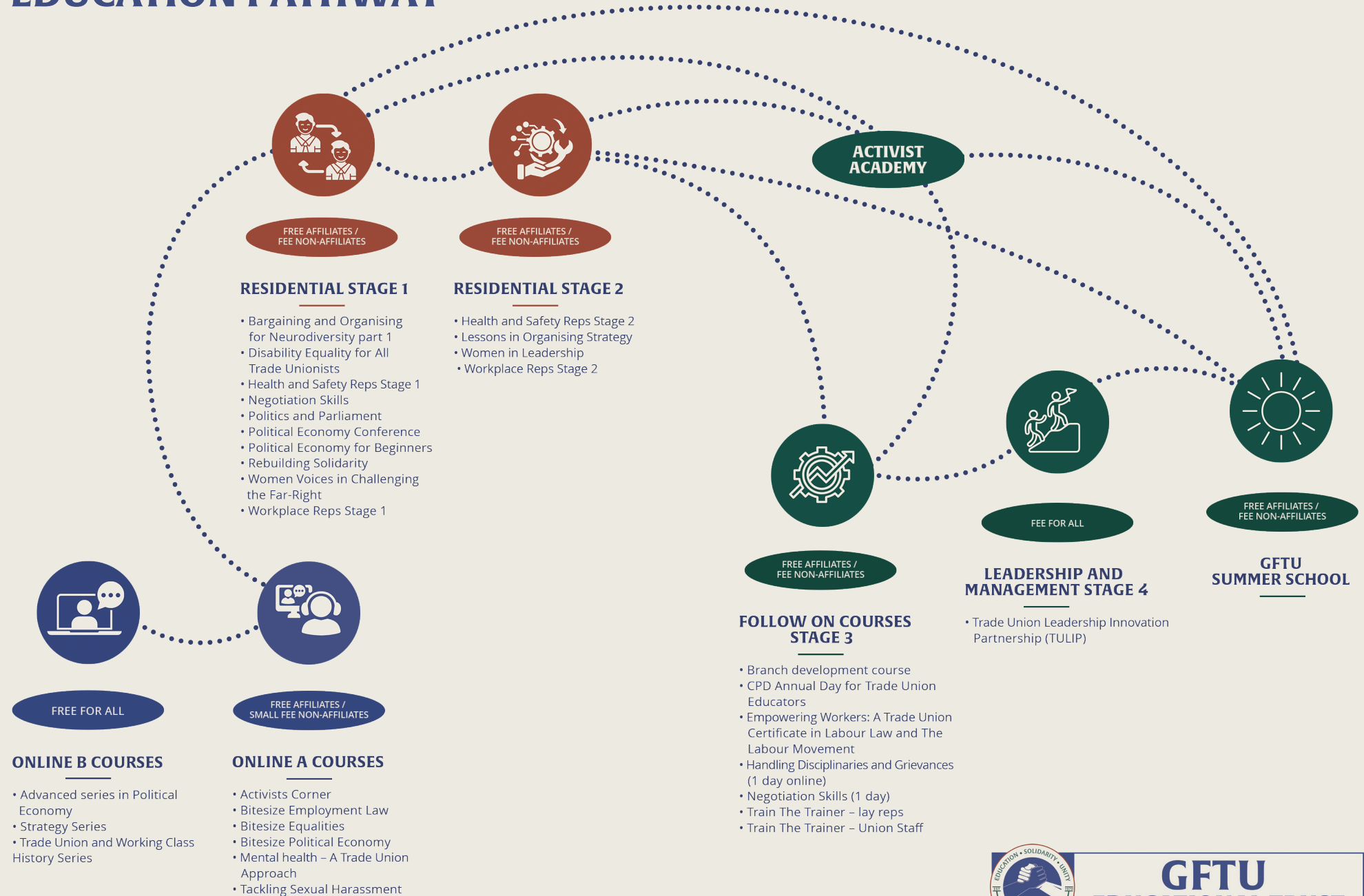
Following a review of our practice of education and discussion amongst ourselves, and our affiliates, the GFTU Educational Trust has agreed a strategic set of principles that will underpin our delivery of education for the coming years. These have been endorsed by both the GFTU Executive Committee and by the Education Officers of our affiliate unions.

Our principles are:

- To provide and develop an understanding of the political & economic context (of political economy and the underlying struggle between labour and capital) within which all Trade Unions operate
 - To provide and develop an understanding of the political & economic context which has shaped, and which continues to shape, the historic development of Trade Unions
 - To provide the skills and knowledge base needed to develop confident and well-informed activists in order to build and hone collective power
 - To see that our educational practice is informed by our commitment to the values of equality, diversity, and inclusion
 - To ensure that GFTU education is forged through our commitments to social justice, the empowering of communities, and internationalism.
-

These principles will be applied to all courses and events, whatever their subject matter.

EDUCATION PATHWAY



GFTU
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

COURSES

Activists' Academy

Alongside our high-quality courses throughout the year, everyone who signs up to a Workplace Reps Stage 1 course will automatically become part of our Activists' Academy.

The Academy is designed to keep the learning going long after the course ends. Participants are connected with an experienced trade union mentor and become part of a peer-to-peer network—creating a space to share experiences, build confidence, and support one another in taking action.

Because the real challenge isn't just what we learn in the classroom—it's what we do with it back in the workplace.

The Activists' Academy exists to bridge that gap: turning knowledge into action, and action into lasting change. It supports activists to apply their learning, overcome obstacles, and build power where it matters most.



To find out more about the Activists' Academy, get in touch:
campaigns@gftu.org.uk

Activists' Corner

We all want to build the skills and confidence needed to be more effective trade union activists. Activists' Corner is designed to do exactly that—offering practical, hands-on sessions you can take straight back into your workplace.

These sessions focus on real tools for organising and building power at work. Throughout the programme, you'll develop your own activist toolkit—strengthening your ability to grow your union, support your colleagues, and win meaningful change.

Activists' Corner is delivered online and limited to just 16 participants, creating a focused, participative space where everyone can contribute and learn from one another. All participants will have access to a dedicated Google Classroom, with session recordings, resources, and materials to support your ongoing development.

Sessions are led by a mix of experienced activists and subject specialists, offering a unique opportunity to learn from those at the forefront of organising and campaigning.

Below is the schedule for this programme's Activists' Corner.

Term	Session Title	Date & Time	Tutor
Autumn	Building Community Strength	12th Nov 2026 7pm	Fraser McGuire
Spring	Good Design for Activists	4th Mar 2027 7pm	Tom Greenwood
Summer	Using the Media and the Press	8th July 2027 7pm	Polly Smythe

Price:
This includes all materials and access to a Google Classroom

Affiliates: Free
Strike Map rep network: Free
Non-affiliates: £30 (£10 a session)

Advanced series in Political Economy

This online international seminar series is jointly organised by SOAS University of London, our KTP partner, the New School for Social Research in New York, and Forum for Real Economic Emancipation (FREE) in Tulsa.

The Series in Advanced Political Economy (SAPE) connects the academic discussions to the real-world power struggle and workers’ everyday lives. For each session, we will invite leading experts on the subject and analyse what’s been going on by identifying key challenges. Together with the audience, we want to think about how we can fight against the challenges and build a movement toward a more systematic change.

Term	Date & Time	Session Title	Application Deadline
Autumn	21 Oct 2026 6pm-8pm	Communities taking back power: decommodifying housing and participatory budgeting	7th Oct 2026
Autumn	11 Nov 2026 6pm-8pm	Energy and food: Towards public ownership and reorganising production	28th Oct 2026
Autumn	9 Dec2026 6pm-8pm	Why can't our universities be free? Higher education, financialisation and workers' struggle	25th Nov 2026
Spring	13 Jan 2027 6pm-8pm	The resurgence of blue-collar jobs? AI, 'bullshit' jobs, and NEET	30th Dec 2026
Spring	10th Feb 2027 6pm-8pm	Balance sheet imperialism and militarism	27th Jan 2027
Spring	17th Mar 2027 6pm-8pm	China Ascendant: Challenger to the US, model for the future?	3rd Mar 2027
Spring	14th Apr 2027 6pm-8pm	Manchesterism: Industrial policy and popular sovereignty	31st Mar 2027

Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials

Affiliates | Non-affiliates : Free

Bargaining and Organising for Neurodiversity – PART I

In this two-day in person course for union reps and activists, we will learn the meaning of the term ‘neurodiversity’ and related terms such as neurodiverse, neurodivergent, neurotypical.

This course will enable participants to be confident in Identifying and understanding six neurodivergent conditions, understand aspects of neurodiversity and neurodivergent experience, e.g., spectrum, social judgements and understand the social model of disability and apply it to neurodivergence.

This course will give practical advice, support, and strategies to help participants identify barriers that workplaces and working conditions present to neurodivergent workers and measures to remove or reduce them, identify workplace changes that will benefit neurodivergent workers and understand the role of the trade union representative in bargaining, campaigning, and representing for change.

Term	Residential Dates	Application Deadline
Spring	13th –14th January 2027	30th December 2026

Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £325

Bitesize Equality, Employment Law and Political Economy

This year, our bitesize courses will be delivered as a flexible, correspondence-based course designed to fit around your life and commitments. Each week, over 10 weeks, participants will receive a video and a set of questions to work through in their own time. There are no live sessions, allowing you to learn at a pace that works for you.

Videos and questions will be delivered weekly every Monday at 6pm for 10 weeks.

EQUALITIES:

Time	Course Starts	Course Ends	Application Deadline
6 pm	24th May 2026	26th July 2026	10th May 2026

EMPLOYMENT LAW:

Time	Course Starts	Course Ends	Application Deadline
6 pm	11th January 2027	15th March 2027	28th Dec 2026

POLITICAL ECONOMY:

Time	Course Starts	Course Ends	Application Deadline
6 pm	21st September 2026	23rd November 2026	7th Sep 2026

Price for all:

Includes all materials and access to a Google Classroom.

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £100 (£10 per session)



Branch Officers' Development Course

Our Branch Officers' Development Course is designed for anyone holding a branch-level role across the trade union movement.

While much of our programme rightly focuses on workplace reps and stewards, this course is about those who bring that activity together - supporting the people who coordinate, develop, and lead across a branch, whether by employer or geography.

Whether you are new to your role or bring years of experience, this course creates space to reflect, share, and challenge. Together, we will explore different branch models from across the movement and ask a central question: what does an effective, organising-focused branch really look like?

The course will equip you with practical tools and strategies to strengthen your branch. This includes developing skills in coaching and mentoring, identifying and nurturing new activists, and building a strong pipeline of workplace reps and stewards.

Alongside this, we will focus on how to grow activism and engagement across your branch, drawing on ideas and debates around trade union renewal—so that branches are not just servicing members, but actively building power.

Term	Residential Dates	Venue	Application Deadline
Spring	18th –20th January 2027	Quorn Grange Hotel	4th Jan 2027

Price:

This includes accommodation, food, and course materials

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £450

CPD Day For Professional Trade Union Tutors

This CPD day brings together professional trade union educators from across the movement.

Whether you deliver education as part of a full-time union role or work as a dedicated trade union educator within further education, this is a space to connect, reflect, and develop together.

The day will focus on the future of trade union education—exploring emerging technologies, evolving curricula, and effective pedagogies to strengthen learning across our movement. It’s an opportunity to share ideas, challenge approaches, and collectively shape the way we educate and organise.

We recognise the depth of knowledge, creativity, and experience that exists across trade union education. Creating space for educators to come together is essential—not just for professional development, but for strengthening activism and building a more confident, capable movement.

This one-day course will be held at the Workers’ Retreat—Quorn Grange Hotel in Loughborough—providing the ideal setting for collaboration, discussion, and shared learning.

Term	Residential Dates	Venue	Application Deadline
Summer	4th May 2027	Quorn Grange Hotel	20th April 2027

Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £150

Disability Equality For All Trade Unionists

With huge changes to equality law, practice and workplace policy and changes in Government policy, the role of equality for all disabled people is vital. The trade union movement must be at the forefront of these changes.

Utilising a social model of disability, this course is ideal for workplace reps, branch officers and those involved in trades union councils that want to take forward the importance of disability equality for all.

This is a two-day course, delivered at the Workers’ Retreat, Quorn Grange Hotel in Loughborough.

Term	Residential Dates	Venue	Application Deadline
Spring	25th –26th January 2027	Quorn Grange Hotel	11th Jan 2027



Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £325

Empowering Workers: A Trade Union Certificate in Labour Law And The Labour Movement

Our very popular Empowering Workers – a trade union certificate in Labour Law and the Labour movement.

Delivered in partnership with the Institute of Employment Rights (IER) and accredited by Birbeck, this course provides a detailed, strong and robust understanding of the context we operate in and how to shape it as trade unionists.

Your Commitment

- Attend the residential session at Quorn Grange Hotel in Leicestershire and the four in-person days at Birkbeck School of Law and Hamilton House, London.
- Commit to group online sessions with programme tutors.
- Complete the “self-study” elements appropriate to the course.
- Have the backing of your union in terms of course fees and time to complete the course.

Date	Venue	What is covered
18th Mar 2027	Birkbeck School of Law	• Welcome to Birkbeck and to the course: Labour Law – its historical, political and economic context • A short history of labour, including the Declaration of Philadelphia and its significance. • A look at recent attempts at legal reform, including a critical look at the Employment Rights Act 2025

Empowering Workers: A Trade Union Certificate in Labour Law and The Labour Movement

Date	Venue	What is covered
25th Mar 2027	Birkbeck School of Law	• Fairness, social justice and human rights • Ways of organising, mobilising, and negotiating • Working rights in times of crisis: how can we respond?
1st Jul 2027	Birkbeck School of Law	• Labour strategy and legal mobilisation • The role and importance of Sectoral Collective Bargaining
8th Jul 2027	Birkbeck School of Law	• The legal status of workers • Labour, artificial intelligence and the law
27th & 28th Sep 2027	GFTU, Quorn Grange Hotel	• Spain’s new labour laws • Unions and communities: linking struggles • Strike action, action short of strike action, balloting, campaigning, disobedience and protest • Boardrooms, works councils, votes at work and other forms of struggle

Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials

Affiliates | Non-affiliates: £2,900

GFTU Summer School

This is our annual opportunity to take stock and think about the future of the Movement and where we go next. As we look to build on recent organising and campaigning successes, the course will help participants to think strategically and embrace new ideas.

Our Summer School provides the space and stimulus for a bolder, bigger and better union Movement. This course is aimed at experienced and newer trade union activists who want an opportunity to think outside the box with key leaders from across the movement.

Term	Residential Dates	Venue	Application Deadline
Summer	2nd –4th August 2027	Quorn Grange Hotel	19th July 2027



Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials.

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £450

Handling disciplinarys and grievances

We will explore the law, our rights and how to assert them during both disciplinarys and grievances. But more than that, this course will provide all representative and caseworkers with useful strategies and tactics to effectively support members. Those applying will ideally have undertaken either Workplace Reps 1 or Workplace Reps 2 with us. It will build on these foundational courses.

This is a one-day online course, and we expect this to fill up quickly. Those applying will ideally have undertaken either Workplace Reps 1 or Workplace Reps 2 with us. It will build on these foundational courses.

Term	Date	Start	End	Application Deadline
Autumn	17th September 2026	10am	4pm	3rd September 2026



Price:
Includes all materials and access to a Google Classroom.

Affiliates: Free | **Non-affiliates:** £125

Health & Safety Reps Stage 1

***5 days**

The essential first course for new union representatives – both shop stewards and safety representatives. The course is split into a 3-day residential course followed by two further days delivered online. We will explore the trade union approach to health and safety, how to spot and deal with safety hazards, the rights and responsibilities of union representatives, and the main aspects of health and safety legislation. We will also cover how to carry out safety inspections and participate in safety committees.

All pupils are provided with a Google Classroom of materials.

Term	Residential Dates	Online Dates	Application Deadline
Autumn	26th –28th Oct 2026	26th –27th Nov 2026	12th Oct 2026
Spring	11th –13th Jan 2027	11th –12th Feb 2027	28th Dec 2026
Summer	24th –26th May 2027	24th –25th Jun 2027	10th May 2027



Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials.

Affiliates: Free | **Non-affiliates:** £500

Health & Safety Reps Stage 2

***5 days**

Building on the Stage 1 course, this course is suitable for new representatives wanting to develop their knowledge and skills and is also suitable as a refresher for more senior representatives. The course is split into a 3-day residential course followed by two further days delivered online. We will build knowledge of workplace safety legislation and how this can be used to not only ensure a safer workplace but also as a tool for building wider union organisation.

Term	Residential Dates	Online Dates	Application Deadline
Autumn	23rd –25th Nov 2026	17th –18th Dec 2026	9th Nov 2026
Spring	8th –10th Feb 2027	11th –12th Mar 2027	25th Jan 2027
Summer	21st –23rd June 2027	22nd –23rd July 2027	7th June 2027

Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials.

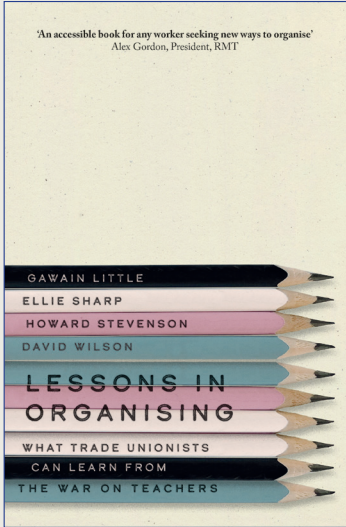
Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £500

Lessons in Organising Strategy

Several unions recently have won industrial action ballots despite the punitive thresholds imposed on them by legislation. What lessons can we learn from these successes so we can continue to win for members? Drawing heavily on the success of the National Education Union (NEU) in securing a huge mandate for action from their members across schools in England and Wales, we will be answering this question.

This course takes its name from the book written by our General Secretary and others. All pupils are provided with a Google Classroom of materials. Lessons in Organising strategy is aimed at trade union leaders looking to nationally provide organising strategies and plans.

Term	Residential Dates	Application Deadline
Spring	25th -27th January 2027	11th January 2027



Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials.

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £450

Mental Health: A Trade Union Response

We are facing a growing mental health crisis in our society. The role of our trade unions is to organise a response. Collectivising around mental health and understanding it is a health and safety issue is vital.

This course will look to equip trade union reps for union strategies to address this growing crisis.

Term	Date	Start	End	Application Deadline
Autumn	19th October 2026	10am	4pm	5th October 2026



Price:
This one-day course is delivered online, and includes course materials.

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £125

Negotiation skills

This a brand new one-day course requested by many from our affiliates and will be delivered in person at the Workers’ Retreat, Quorn Grange Hotel, Loughborough. We will be covering what makes negotiations successful, where does negotiating power come from and how do we involve and engage members in negotiations.

This course is ideal for those that have undertaken either Workplace Reps 1 or Workplace Reps 2 with us. It will build on these foundational courses, utilising theory as well as practice, with our famous negotiations’ scenario role play activity.

We expect this course to be booked up quickly, please register early to avoid disappointment.

Term	Date	Application Deadline
Spring	27th January 2027	13th January 2027

Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials.

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £175

Political Economy Conference

Building on the success of our 2025 Political Economy Conference, we are taking the conversation further—deepening our understanding of how the economy works, how political decisions shape our living standards, where power really lies, and what alternative economic strategies we can fight for.

This conference is open to trade unionists at every level who want to engage, debate, and take ideas back into their branches and unions. Together, we will reflect on where the UK trade union movement stands today—what we have achieved, the challenges we face, and the direction we need to take in both the short and long term.

Our speakers will bring together leading academics and experienced trade unionists, creating a space for grounded, practical discussion that connects theory with organising.

- Throughout the conference, we will explore key questions, including:**
- What would the economy look like if it were rebuilt in the interests of working people, not capital?
 - What is political economy—and why does it matter for trade unions?
 - The post-Brexit UK economy: austerity, privatisation, and stagnation
 - The global picture: wars, global supply chains, and inflation
 - How do we bring political economy into our day-to-day organising and campaigns?

We begin by imagining what a worker-centred economy could look like—challenging the assumptions of the current system and opening up space for alternatives. From there, we build a shared understanding of political economy and why it is essential to trade union strategy.

The programme then moves from theory to practice, examining both the UK and global economic context through interactive sessions and group work. We will finish by developing concrete plans to take these ideas forward—embedding political economy into organising, campaigning, and strategy at branch and union level.

This is not just about understanding the world as it is—but about equipping ourselves to change it.

Term	Residential Dates	Time	Venue	App Deadline
Spring	19th–20th Feb 2027	5pm – 5pm (24hr residential course)	Quorn Grange Hotel	5th Feb 2027

Price:
This includes accommodation night of 1 February, food, and course materials.

Affiliates: Free | **Non-affiliates:** £200

Political Economy For Beginners

This Political Economy for Beginners course is for anyone who wants to understand why things feel so tough for working people—and what we can do about it.

If you’ve ever asked yourself:

- Why are we working more, yet finding life getting harder?
- What are bosses actually doing—and why are they paid so much?
- Why do poverty and inequality persist in such a wealthy society?
- Why are decent housing and secure work so hard to find?
- And most importantly—how do we challenge this system?

...then this course is for you.

Designed with accessibility at its core, the course breaks down complex ideas and political language into clear, practical learning. It builds a class-based understanding of how our economy works—who it serves, and who it leaves behind.

But this course doesn’t stop at analysis. It’s about action.

You’ll be encouraged to draw on your own experiences as a trade unionist—whether in the workplace, your union, or your community—to deepen discussion and build collective understanding.

The course material will draw on the forthcoming book *Out of the Ruins: Rebuilding the British Economy* by Larry Elliott, Costas Lapavistas, and Doug Nicholls, connecting cutting-edge analysis with practical organising.

Term	Residential Dates	Venue	Application Deadline
Autumn	1st –3rd Dec 2026	Quorn Grange Hotel	17th Nov 2026

Price:

This includes food, a copy of the book and course materials.

Affiliates: Free | **Non-affiliates:** £450

Politics and Parliament

What can Parliament deliver for working people—and where does it fall short? This one-day course takes a critical look at the role of parliamentary politics in advancing trade union goals. While legislative change can bring important gains, history shows that real progress for workers has rarely come from Parliament alone.

Together, we will explore the limits of parliamentary strategies and ask what this means for trade unions today. Through discussion, case studies, and shared experience, we will examine how political parties, institutions, and the state shape—and often constrain—the outcomes of campaigns led from Westminster and beyond.

Key themes will include:

- The relationship between trade unions and political parties
- How laws affecting workers are made—and who influences them
- The limits of relying on parliamentary routes for change
- Lessons from past campaigns: when Parliament delivered—and when it didn’t
- How industrial strength and workplace organising interact with political campaigning

This course is not about rejecting parliamentary engagement—but about understanding its place within a wider strategy. It will support participants to think critically about how we balance political lobbying with building power in workplaces and communities.

By the end of the day, participants will be better equipped to assess political opportunities, avoid common pitfalls, and develop strategies that combine parliamentary work with grassroots organising to win real change.

Term	Residential Dates	Venue	Application Deadline
Autumn	12th Nov 2026	Parliament	29th Oct 2026

Price:

This includes all course materials.

Affiliates: Free | **Non-affiliates:** £175

Politics and the Economy

What is the relationship between politics and the economy? How do government decisions affect wages, prices and profit – and how are these decisions affected by the economic structure of our society?

This one-day course looks at how politics is grounded in the economic base of society and, in turn, affects that economic base. Together, we will explore key macroeconomic concepts and discuss role of institutions such as central banks and the bond markets. We will use practical examples to understand the impact of economic decision-making on our daily lives.

Key themes will include:

- Why political economy?
- State decisions on budgets and interest rates
- Deindustrialisation and reindustrialisation
- How to solve the housing crisis
- How political decision-making is affected by the economic structure of society

Students will end the day with a greater understanding of the relationship between politics and the economy, and a working understanding of key macroeconomic concepts.

The course is co-taught by GFTU tutors and members of the economics department at SOAS, University of London. No prior study of economics is required for this course, which is accessible to all trade union activists.

Term	Residential Dates	Venue	Application Deadline
Spring	10th Mar 2027	SOAS Economics	24th Feb 2027

Price:

This includes all course materials

Affiliates: Free | **Non-affiliates:** £175

Rebuilding Solidarity

This course equips trade union reps, activists, and members with the skills, confidence, and knowledge to challenge far-right narratives in the workplace and wider community—through informed, constructive dialogue.

Delivered by the General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust in partnership with organisations including the Anti-Racist Movement Stand Up to Racism, ACORN, Living Rent, SOAS University of London, and data specialists Bombe.io, the course combines cutting-edge research with practical organising skills.

Participants will explore new data mapping support for the far right at postcode level, alongside analysis of the social, economic, and media-driven factors behind its rise. The course will unpack common myths around migration, examine the real causes of insecure work and housing, and challenge the narratives that divide working people.

A core focus of the day is turning knowledge into action. Through interactive sessions, participants will learn how to have effective, one-to-one organising conversations that challenge racism, misogyny, and misinformation—while building trust and solidarity.

By the end of the course, participants will be better equipped to respond to difficult conversations, organise confidently, and contribute to a growing network of trade union activists working collectively to push back against division and build unity.

Term	Residential Dates	Venue	Application Deadline
Summer	1st – 2nd June 2027	Quorn Grange Hotel	18th May 2026

Price:

This includes all course materials

Affiliates: Free | **Non-affiliates:** £325

Strategy Series

Strategy is not just a word. Strategy is about how we all within the trade union and wider labour movement build the power and capacity to improve workers lives. The employers have strategy, the managers have strategy, and it is vital that as a united labour movement we build our own.

Term	Online Dates	Session Title	Tutor
Autumn	15th Oct 2026	Get On The Job and Organise – Lessons From ‘Salting’ in The USA	Jaz Brisack
Spring	4th Feb 2027	Women, Race, Class- strategy For Union Renewal	Angela Davis
Summer	10th Jun 2027	Rebuilding Class-Conscious Trade Unionism	Gawain Little



Jaz Brisack

Jaz Brisack, organizer and Inside Organizer School cofounder, helped unionize Starbucks, organized across companies, and authored Get on the Job and Organize: Standing Up for a Better Workplace and a Better World,” published in 2025.



Angela Davis

Angela Davis is an American Marxist and feminist political activist, philosopher, academic, author and social theorist who was an active member in the Communist Party and the Black Panther Party. She has written extensively on women, race and class; prison abolition; democracy and freedom.



Gawain Little

Gawain Little is General Secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions and co-author of the book Lessons in Organising: What we can learn from the war on teachers. He was previously an education union activist.

Price:

These online sessions will each last for 60 minutes and begin at 7pm

Affiliates and Non-affiliates: Free

Tackling Sexual Harassment

A one-day online course to help workplace representatives understand the nature of workplace sexual harassment, how to spot it and how to deal with it. It will explore reasons why sexual harassment is often not reported and the steps that unions and employers should take to ensure that harassment is taken seriously.

Term	Online Dates	Application Deadline
Spring	22nd March 2027	8th March 2027



Ranjit O'Mahony

Ranjit is a Senior Solicitor in the employment team. She has over 18 years' experience advising individuals and trade unions in all manner of employment tribunal claims including discrimination, unfair dismissal, whistleblowing, protective awards and TUPE. She deals with complex employment tribunal claims from inception to completion. Ranjit also regularly delivers training to unions and associations, both online and in person.

Price:

This is an online course.

Affiliates: Free

Non-affiliates: £125



Trade Union and Working Class History

Our most popular series is back. The last few years have seen a huge increase in the amount of people joining our trade union and working-class history series.

This year's theme is strikes and struggles that framed the 20 century. We are proud to deliver this series in partnership with the Marx Memorial Library, the Working-Class Movement Library and the People's History Museum

Time	Date	Session Title
7pm	24th Sep 2026	Seattle General Strike (1919, United States)
	22nd Oct 2026	National Unemployed Workers' Movement (NUWM)
	19th Nov 2026	Belgian Mass Strikes
	21st Jan 2027	May 1968 (France)
	18th Feb 2027	Hot Autumn (Italy)
	18th March 2027	UCS Work In
	22nd April 2027	New Zealand General Strike 1979
	20th May 2027	PATCO Strike 1980
	17th June 2027	Bombay Textile Strike (India)
	22nd July 2027	Spanish General Strike 1988 (Spain)

Price:
These online sessions will each last for 90 min and begin at 7pm.

Affiliates and Non-affiliates: Free



Train The Trainer

A very popular course requested by trade union educators and reps that want to develop educational delivery skills, our train the trainer course is back for 2026-2027.

This course is open to those that deliver education for their full-time job, those that do it as part of their role and for those that do not do it that often or want to develop these skills further.

Term	Residential Dates	Application Deadline
Spring	15th -17th February 2027	1st February 2027

Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials.

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £450

Trade Union Leadership and Innovation Programme (TULIP)

As working people and their trade unions face unprecedented challenges, our Movement needs leaders with the skills, ideas, and drive to make the world a better and fairer place. Carrying on as we have before in the hope that more of the same will save the trade union movement is not an option.

The time for change is now and if you are a union leader who aspires to build our Movement through effective, innovative, and bold leadership, then this programme is for you.

In addition to the attended sessions, there are some great online learning materials that are included in the course, which can be accessed anytime, from anywhere via the internet.

Price:

The prices above include all accommodation, food, and course materials for the five two-day sessions outlined above.

We have very deliberately established this as a blended programme with a number of “taught” residential sessions that will be led by an experienced team of tutors who are expert in their subject area.

As a trade union run programme, we have been able to keep the costs of the total of 10 days residential training plus online modules roughly equivalent to an online only commercial training company, providing a great learning opportunity and exceptional value for you and your Union.

Application Deadline: 7th October 2026

Trade Union Leadership and Innovation Programme (TULIP)

Date	Module	What is Covered
22nd –23rd October 2026	Thinking About Leadership	• Critical reflections on leadership and management • Leadership in trade unions • Thinking and acting strategically • Creating a compelling vision
18th –19th November 2026	Transforming Individuals	• Coaching and mentoring • How do we support individuals to change? • Changing thinking and behaviour • How adults learn
9th –10th December 2026	Developing People	• Building collaborative learning cultures • Developing effective teams; Managing difficult conversations • Embedding development in your union
13th –14th January 2027	Creating Conditions for Change	• Managing budgets; Financial decisions and policy choices • What is quality work? • How do we create quality working environments?
3rd –4th February 2027	Leading Innovation and Change	• Leadership as the process of making change happen • Managing change • Facilitating creativity • Developing a change project

Your Commitment

- Attend all 5 residential sessions (run over two days each at Quorn Grange Hotel, the GFTU’s Hotel in Leicestershire).
- Commit to one-to-one online sessions with the programme tutor.
- Complete the “self-study” elements according to the level you sign up to.
- Have the backing of your union in terms of course fees, time to complete the course, and the support of a mentor.



Trade Union Leadership and Innovation Programme (TULIP)

Accreditation

This course can be completed at various levels of accreditation.

Level	Description	What You Should Expect	Price
1	GFTU accredited programme	• Attend tutor-led sessions • Access to e-learning materials • Pre-course work for each session • Complete a learning review log	Affiliate: £1,500 Non-affiliate: £2,000
2	ILM Level 5 Certificate in Leadership and Management	• Attend tutor-led sessions • Access to e-learning materials • Pre-course work for each session • Complete a learning review log • Completion of up to 6 workbooks with associated assignments (3 of which are mandatory)	Affiliate: £2,400 Non-affiliate: £2,900

Women in Leadership Course

Our Women in Leadership has become an important staple of our programme.

This course will cover:

- What does leadership look like – labour movement history, community, family
- Raising women’s voices in trade unions, in workplaces, and in elected politics
- Organising on women’s Health and Safety in the workplace
- Strength in networks and learning from each other, across the movement



Residential Dates	Application Deadline
14th –16th June 2027	31st May 2027

Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £450

Women Voices in Challenging The Far-Right

This course is designed to build women’s leadership in challenging far-right narratives in the workplace and wider community. It brings together women trade unionists to develop the confidence, knowledge, and skills needed to organise, respond, and lead. Delivered by the General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust in partnership with migrant women’s organisations, Abortion Talk, SOAS University of London, and data specialists Bombe.io, the course combines cutting-edge research with practical organising experience.

Participants will explore new data on the rise of the far right, including postcode-level trends and the social, economic, and media-driven factors behind its growth. The course will examine how misogyny—particularly online cultures such as the “manosphere”—intersects with far-right politics, and how these ideas shape attitudes in workplaces and communities.

Through interactive sessions, participants will challenge myths around migration, understand the real causes of economic insecurity, and explore how narratives around “protecting women” are used to divide working people.

A key focus is on action: developing the skills to lead conversations on difficult issues, including misogyny and reproductive rights, and building solidarity across communities.

By the end of the course, participants will be part of a growing network of women activists working collectively to challenge division and strengthen the movement.

Term	Online Dates	Application Deadline
Spring	28th –30th June 2027	14th June 2027

Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials.

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £450

Workplace Reps Stage 1

The essential first course for all new union activists. The course is split into a 3-day residential course followed by two further days delivered online. We will be looking at the role of the rep, how to effectively represent members in a variety of situations, how to build the union in your workplace, and the importance of effective communication with members and your union.

Term	Residential Dates	Online Dates	Application Deadline
Autumn	9th –11th Nov 2026	3rd –4th Dec 2026	26th October 2026
Spring	22nd –24th Feb 2027	25th –26th Mar 2027	8th February 2027
Spring	1st –3rd Mar 2027	8th – 9th April 2027	15th February 2027
Summer	28th –30th Jun 2027	29th – 30th July 2027	14th June 2027

Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials with a Google Classroom

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £500

Workplace Reps Stage 2

Building on the Stage 1 course, this course is suitable for new activists wanting to develop their skills and is also suitable as a refresher for more senior activists. The course is split into a 3-day residential course followed by two further days delivered online. We will develop representation skills as well as looking at how activists can campaign and deal with issues collectively. We will also cover rights at work, the importance of the employment contract and how to ensure the union stays on the front foot with employers.

Term	Residential Dates	Online Dates	Application Deadline
Spring	22nd–24th Mar 2027	29th–30th Apr 2027	8th March 2027
Spring	30th Mar–1st Apr 2027	6th–7th May 2027	16th March 2027
Summer	28th–30th Jul 2027	19th–20th Aug 2027	14th July 2027



Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials with a Google Classroom

Affiliates: Free | **Non-affiliates:** £500

Young Members’ Development Weekend

If you are new to union membership, then this residential event is for you! Full of inspiration, opportunity, education, and networking, this is a real chance for young members across the movement to develop their skills, gain knowledge and create links with other trade unions.

Term	Residential Dates	Venue	Application Deadline
Autum	13th –15th Nov 2026	Quorn Grange Hotel	30th Oct 2026



Price:
This includes accommodation, food, and course materials

Affiliates: Free
Non-affiliates: £375

COURSES
BY TERM

Autumn

Course	Residential / Online	Start Date
Handling Disciplinarys and Grievances	Online	17th Sep 2026
Bitesize Political Economy (x10 weeks)	Online	21st Sep 2026
Seattle General Strike (1919, United States)	Online	24th Sep 2026
Strategy Series – Get On The Job and Organise – Lessons From ‘Salting’ in The USA	Online	15th Oct 2026
Mental Health – A Trade Union Response	Online	19th Oct 2026
Advance Series in Political Economy: Communities taking back power	Online	21st Oct 2026
Trade Union Leadership and Innovation Programme	Residential	22nd Oct 2026
National Unemployed Workers’ Movement (NUWM)	Online	22nd Oct 2026
Health and Safety Reps 1	Residential	26th Oct 2026
Workplace Reps 1	Residential	9th Nov 2026
Advance Series in Political Economy: Energy and food	Online	11th Nov 2026
Politics and Parliament	Residential	12th Nov 2026
Activist Corner: building community strength	Online	12th Nov 2026
Young Members Development Weekend	Residential	13th Nov 2026
Trade Union Leadership and Innovation Programme	Residential	18th Nov 2026
Belgian Mass Strikes	Online	19th Nov 2026
Health and Safety Reps 2	Residential	23rd Nov 2026
Political Economy for Beginners	Residential	1st Dec 2026
Trade Union Leadership and Innovation Programme	Residential	9th Dec 2026
Advance Series in Political Economy: Why can’t our universities be free?	Online	9th Dec 2026

Spring

Course	Residential / Online	Start Date
Bitesize Employment Law (x10 weeks)	Online	11th Jan 2027
Health and Safety Reps 1	Residential	11th Jan 2027
Bargaining and Organising for Neurodiversity Part 1	Residential	13th Jan 2027
Trade Union Leadership and Innovation Programme	Residential	13th Jan 2027
Advanced Series in Political Economy: The resurgence of blue-collar jobs?	Online	13th Jan 2027
Branch Officers’ Development Course	Residential	18th Jan 2027
May 1968 (France)	Online	21st Jan 2027
Disability Equality for All Trade Unionists	Residential	25th Jan 2027
Lessons in Organising- strategy	Residential	25th Jan 2027
Negotiation Skills	Residential	27th Jan 2027
Strategy Series: Women, Race and Class	Online	4th Feb 2027
Trade Union Leadership and Innovation Programme	Residential	3rd Feb 2027
Health and Safety Reps 2	Residential	8th Feb 2027
Advanced Series in Political Economy: Balance sheet imperialism	Online	10th Feb 2027
Train The Trainer	Residential	15th Feb 2027
Hot Autumn (Italy)	Online	18th Feb 2027
Political Economy Conference	Online	19th Feb 2027
Workplace Reps 1	Residential	22nd Feb 2027
Workplace Reps 1	Residential	1st Mar 2027
Activist Corner: Good Design for Activists	Online	4th Mar 2027
Politics and the Economy	Residential	10th Mar 2027
Advanced Series in Political Economy: China Ascendant	Online	17th Mar 2027
Empowering Workers	Residential	19th Mar 2027
UCS Work in	Online	18th Mar 2027
Workplace Reps 2	Residential	22nd Mar 2027
Tackling Sexual Harassment	Online	22nd Mar 2027

Empowering Workers	Residential	25th Mar 2027
Workplace Reps 2	Residential	30th Mar 2027
Advanced Series in Political Economy: Manchesterism	Online	14th Apr 2027
New Zealand General Strike 1979	Online	22nd Apr 2027

Summer

Course	Residential / Online	Start Date
CPD day for professional trade union tutors	Residential	4th May 2027
PATCO strike 1980	Online	20th May 2027
Health and Safety reps 1	Residential	24th May 2027
Bitesize equalities (x10 weeks)	Online	24th May 2027
Rebuilding Solidarity	Residential	1st Jun 2027
Strategy Series: Rebuilding Class-conscious Trade Unionism	Online	10th Jun 2027
Women in leadership course	Residential	14th Jun 2027
Bombay Textile Strike (India)	Online	17th Jun 2027
Health and Safety reps 2	Residential	21st Jun 2027
Women voices in Challenging the far-right	Residential	28th Jun 2027
Workplace reps 1	Residential	28th Jun 2027
Empowering Workers	Residential	1st Ju 2927
Empowering Workers	Residential	8th Jul 2027
Activist Corner: Using Media and the Press	Online	8th Jul 2027
Spanish General Strike of 1988 (Spain)	Online	22nd Jul 2027
Workplace reps 2	Residential	28th Jul 2027
GFTU Summer School	Residential	2nd Aug 2027
Empowering Workers	Residential	27th Sep 2027

Bespoke courses we can deliver to you.

We offer tailored education and development solutions designed to meet the unique needs of you and your organisation. Our programmes support activists, trade union staff, and organisations across the wider trade union, labour and community movement.

Whether you are looking to adapt one of our existing courses or commission a fully bespoke programme, we can create a learning experience that reflects your goals, priorities and challenges.

Our experienced education team will work closely with you throughout the process, from initial consultation and course design to delivery and evaluation, ensuring your learning objectives are met every step of the way.

To get started, simply scan the QR code below and complete our short bespoke training request form. A member of our team will then be in touch to discuss your requirements and how we can support you.



Become a Friend of Our Trust

Join the Movement, Transform Lives with
Friends of GFTU Educational Trust

Your Contribution Matters

By becoming a member of Friends of GFTUET, you are directly supporting the future of trade union education. Make the trade union movement stronger through education. Choose your level of support and join us in making a difference:

Gold Friend of GFTUET £25/month

Access the newsletter, receive invitations to all events, and participate in exclusive member gatherings.

Silver Friend of GFTUET £10/month

Enjoy newsletter access and receive invitations to select events.

Friend of GFTUET £5/month

Receive exclusive access to our monthly newsletter

Where Your Money Goes

Provide Access to Essential Courses:

Your subscription will cover the cost for one individual to attend any of our 3-day courses, offering comprehensive learning experiences that equip participants with essential skills and knowledge.

Support New Representatives:

Your support will enable a new representative to attend the Health and Safety in the Workplace Stage 1 training, empowering them to advocate for safe working conditions and protect the rights of their fellow workers.

Empower Women in Leadership:

Your subscription will fund one student's attendance at a Women in Leadership course, fostering gender diversity and empowering women to take on leadership roles within their unions and workplaces.

Combat Sexual Harassment:

Your contribution will enable five individuals to receive training on identifying and challenging sexual harassment in the workplace, fostering safer and more inclusive work environments for all.

Promote Black Leadership:

Your support will provide one student with access to a Black Leadership course, addressing the unique challenges faced by Black workers and empowering them to take on leadership roles within the trade union movement.

Join our Education Fund



The GFTUET Education Fund was created to widen access to independent trade union education. It allows union branches, regions, and local Trades Councils from non-GFTU-affiliated unions to take part in our courses by making an annual contribution. The scheme is designed to ensure that more union members across the movement can benefit from high-quality education, regardless of affiliation.

Who Can Join?

Union branches and regions not affiliated to the GFTU, along with local Trades Councils, are eligible to contribute to the Education Fund and access our programme.

Contribution Levels:

Union Branches

- Small branches (under 500 members): £650
- Large branches (500 or more members): £1,300

Union Regions

- Regions of unions with under 400,000 members nationally: £5,000
- Regions of unions with over 400,000 members nationally: £10,000

Trades Councils

- Minimum contribution: £100
- Medium contribution: £650
- Large contribution: £1,300

How It Works:

Contributors to the Education Fund can send members on GFTUET courses throughout the year, within a fair use framework. For Trades Councils, a pooled system is in place to ensure fair access across contributing councils.

By joining the Education Fund, your branch, region or Trades Council can help build access to education that supports organising, leadership and solidarity across the movement.

The Workers' Retreat

Quorn Grange Hotel



GFTU
EDUCATIONAL TRUST



The perfect venue for your union events

Every penny you spend at Quorn Grange Hotel enables the GFTU to provide high quality trade union education for our movement.

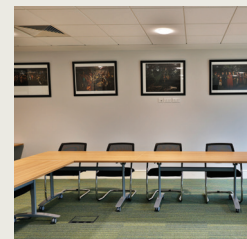


01 | Goodacre

Ideal for your branch or regional development day, the Goodacre is the biggest of our rooms and has a capacity of 120 guests cabaret style. We can provide screen, projector, and other stationary.

Oak Panel Room | 02

Our most elegant room. This high-class space, provides a real sense of occasion for your next meeting. A screen and projector is available. Maximum capacity is 20 cabaret.



03 | Classroom 1

This is our largest classroom space and can host 20 comfortably. This fantastic space includes access to latest hybrid technology and we have available a digital interactive screen, stationary and refreshments.



Classroom 2

Our newest available room, this state of art classroom provides a fantastic space for your next union event or training session. Max capacity is 16, we have available a digital interactive screen, stationary and refreshments.

Bluebell Room | 04

The perfect room for that next committee strategy meeting for your branch and region. The bluebell room is located in the newest part of our hotel and comfortably fits up to 10 people.



The Workers' Retreat

Quorn Grange Hotel

QUORN
GRANGE
HOTEL



Pricing & Packages

DAY DELEGATE RATE

Affiliated: £45
Non-affiliated: £50

Price includes:

Meeting room hire,
2x tea and coffee breaks,
2x course buffet lunch.

24H RATE

Affiliated: £150
Non-affiliated: £170

Price includes:

Meeting room hire,
2x tea and coffee breaks,
2x course buffet lunch
2x course dinner,
accommodation and
breakfast the next morning.

"By using our venue you are not increasing the profits of hotels and conference centres, but you are funding trade union education for future generations."

Gawain Little, General Federation of Trade Unions, General Secretary

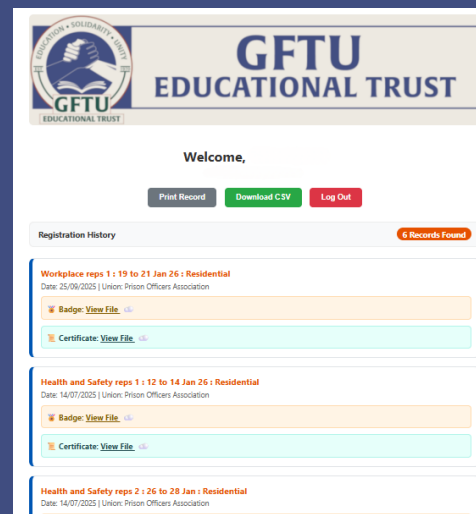


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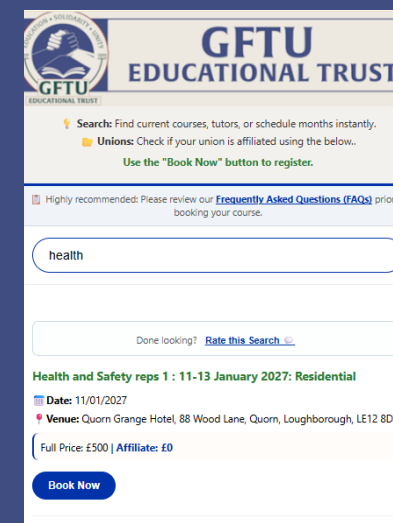
Activist Centre



Welcome to the new Activist Centre – your personal learning hub. Track your progress, view registered and completed courses, and download certificates and e-badges to share your achievements across your social media profiles.

Course Lookup

Explore courses, find booking information, and discover learning opportunities with our new Course Lookup tool – your instant guide to the GFTU Education Programme 2026–2027.



Supporting Trade Unions

The WEA has a longstanding tradition with trade unions in supporting, developing and educating members. Founded in 1903, we've been a key part of the labour movement for over a century.

Social justice is at our core. We are a charity with a special mission to raise aspirations and develop educational opportunities for the most disadvantaged.



Browse our courses

Scan the QR or visit:
thewea.info/GFTU



Literature

Our literature courses are a great way to explore stories, cultures, and art. Take part in lively discussions, in-depth research, and analysis. Courses include:

- 20th Century Short Stories
- Gods of Olympus - Goddesses and Gods in Ancient Literature
- Discussing 'A Room with a View'

Art & design

Get hands on, be creative and have fun with a WEA art and craft course.

Find your arty side in a supportive and nurturing environment. Plus, if you want to turn your hobby into a profit, we have a course for that too.



Skills for work

Boost your career with our skills courses!
Build networks and gain skills that employers want.
We offer courses in:

- Health and social care
- Teaching
- Community interpreting

We also offer English, maths, digital, and ESOL courses. Courses include:

- Support Work in Schools
- Counselling Skills
- Community Interpreting
- Maths & English Functional Skills
- ESOL

Skills for life

Our Skills for Life courses make everyday life that little bit easier.

We give you a safe space to address topics like confidence, mental wellbeing, and communication. Courses include:

- Managing stress
- Preparing for the driving theory test
- Online yoga
- Beginners British Sign Language (BSL)

History

Explore history with us! Work on projects, join events, and chat with fellow learners to dive into the past together. Learn to create timelines, research, evaluate sources, and present your findings confidently.

We offer over 100 history courses each year, including:

- Irish history
- The British Dark Ages
- Edward III and the Plantagenet Dynasty
- The Golden Age of Persia

WEA
Adult Learning
Within Reach



Your Notes

