



Annual report 2025-2026

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We are pleased to present the General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust's (GFTUET) Annual Report for 2025–2026.

Over the past three years, we have continued to develop and strengthen our educational programme to meet the evolving needs of our affiliates and trade union members across the movement.

By combining a strong programme of in-person and residential learning with a comprehensive online offer, we have created a diverse and accessible curriculum for activists at every stage of their journey.

Our independence enables us to design education that equips trade unionists with the practical skills, political understanding, confidence and strategic thinking needed to build stronger workplaces and drive meaningful change.

We remain incredibly fortunate to have our beautiful residential education centre and the state-of-the-art Workers' Retreat at Quorn Grange Hotel, providing an outstanding environment for learning, collaboration and reflection.

This Annual Report not only highlights our achievements over the past year but also reflects on the progress we have made over the last three years as we have expanded and refined our educational offer.

Introduction

At the time of writing, we have just launched our 2026–2027 programme, featuring more than 90 courses delivered through a mix of in-person, residential and online learning.

Alongside our core programme, demand for bespoke education and training has continued to grow across the trade union movement. In response, we have introduced a simple request form to help affiliates and unions outline their learning and development needs, enabling us to design and deliver tailored educational programmes that meet their specific requirements.

We hope this report is useful to the movement and helps strengthen trade union education for all workers.

In solidarity



Henry Fowler

Assistant General Secretary

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust

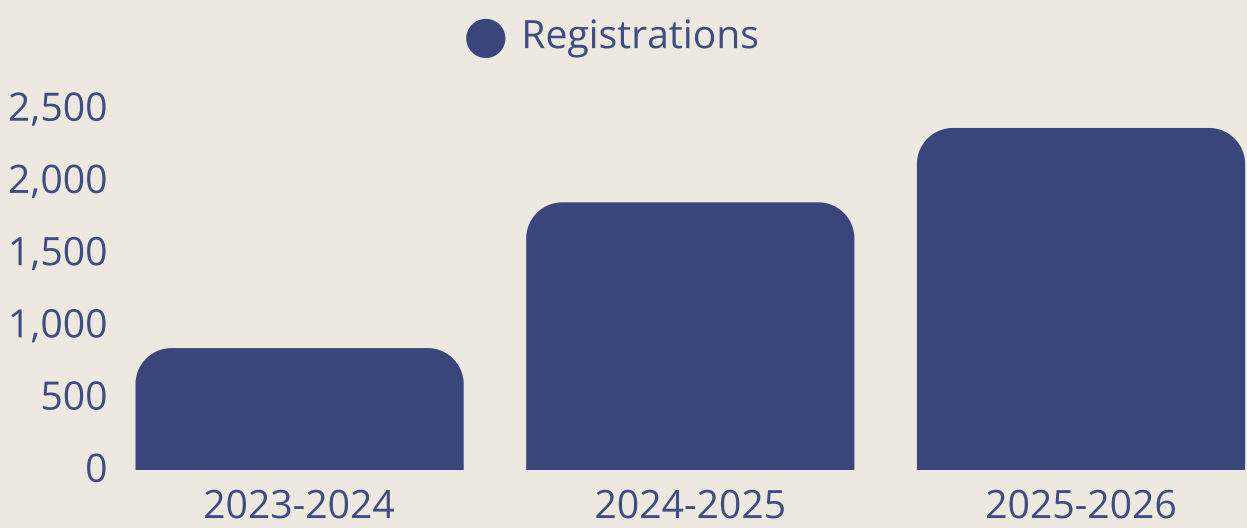


Registration data 2025-2026

2025

This year we had registrations from 59 different trade unions and organisations. The biggest increase on previous years was the trades council delegate, which is a direct result of the new Education Fund aimed at union branches, regions and trades councils.

Since 2023-2024 education programme, **we have had a 180% increase in registrations throughout the programme.**

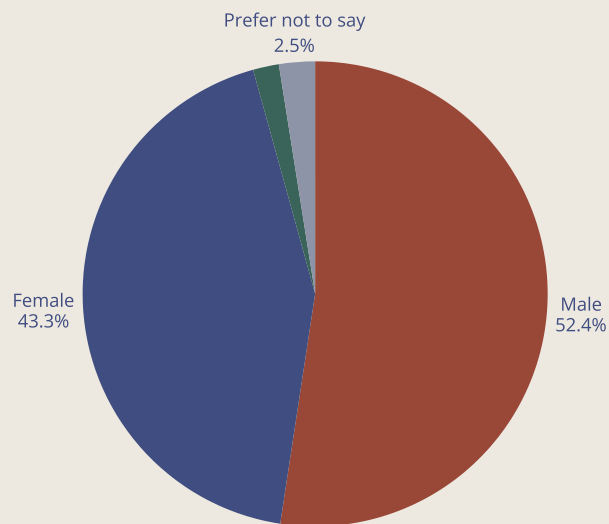


Top 15 organisations by registrations

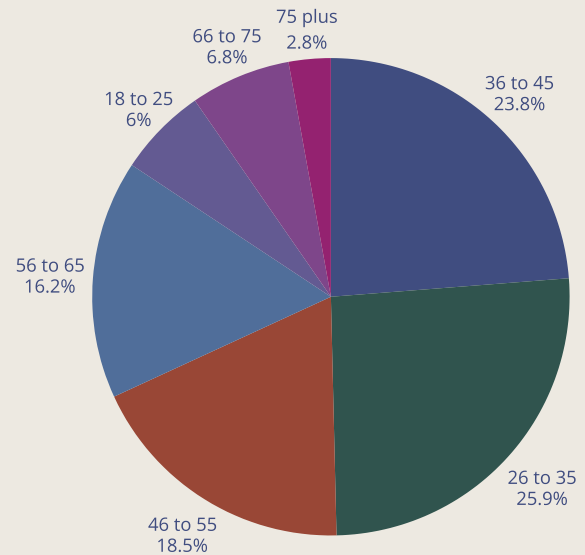
- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Unite the Union, 7% | 9. PCS, 4% |
| 2. BFAWU, 7% | 10. SUE, 4% |
| 3. TSSA, 6% | 11. NEU, 3% |
| 4. CWU, 5% | 12. GMB, 3% |
| 5. NAPO, 5% | 13. SWU, 2% |
| 6. POA, 5% | 14. Trades Council Delegate, 2% |
| 7. UNISON, 4% | 15. SIF, 2% |
| 8. UCU, 4% | |

Registration data 2025-2026

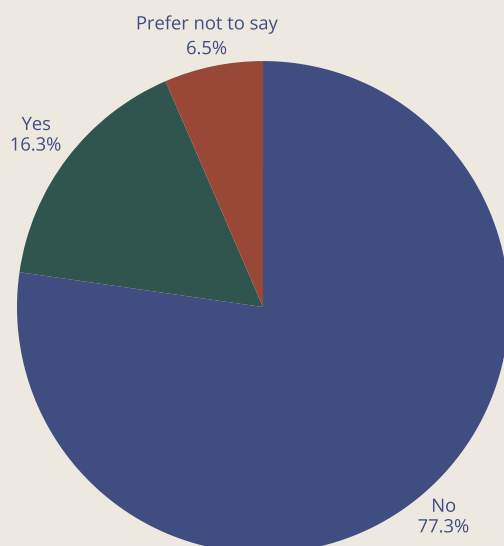
Gender



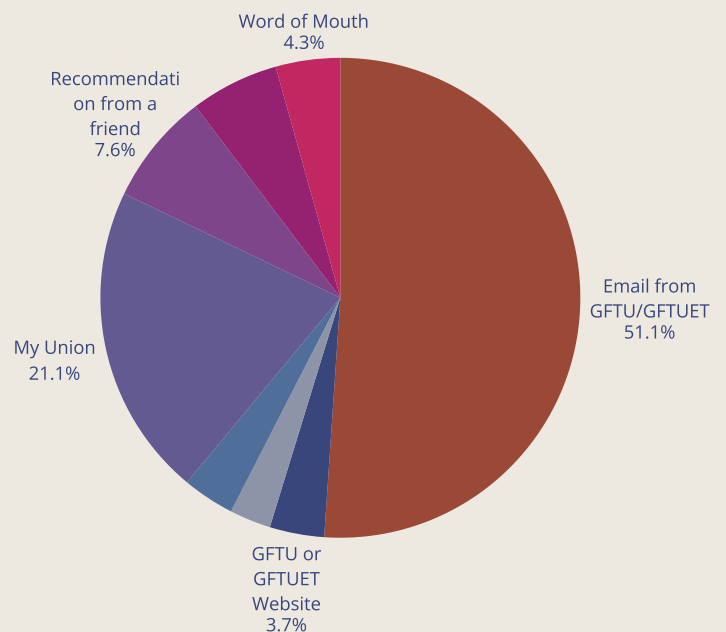
Age



Disability



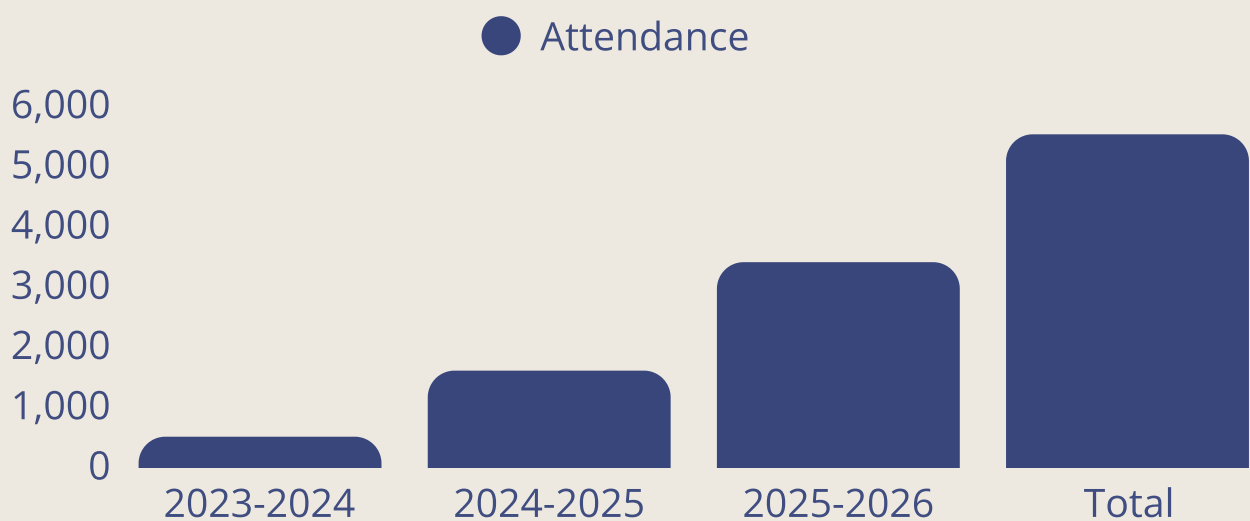
How did you hear about us?



Attendance data 2023-2026

With the rapid increase of our provision and more courses available each year, we have seen a 564% increase in people attending our courses.

Below shows the amount of people who have attended a course with us since 2023-2024.



Evaluation data 2023-2026

All of our courses are evaluated to ensure they meet the highest educational standards. Participant feedback is an essential part of this process, helping us assess the effectiveness of our programmes and measure them against the principles of the GFTU Educational Trust.

While we have seen a significant increase in the number of people registering for and attending our courses, our priority remains the impact of our education. We are committed to ensuring that participants leave with the knowledge, skills and confidence to make a real difference—applying what they have learned in their workplace, union branch, community and beyond.

Below provides summaries of the feedback we have had over the past three years.



98%+ of participants answered strongly agree or agree that their training objectives met.



81%+ of participants answered Their knowledge and awareness to build positive change in their union and/or workplace increased as a result of the course.

70%+ of participants answered

Their confidence and leadership skills to take part in trade union / workplace activities increased as a result of the course.

“Really interesting course and i learnt so much!”

I particularly enjoyed the economics sessions.”

Summer School participant



“Very informative course with great interaction from all involved.”

Workplace reps 1 participant

Our bespoke offer to the movement

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 complete our short bespoke education request [form](#). A member of our team will then be in touch to discuss your requirements and how we can support you.



Friends of the educational trust

Since launching, our Friends of GFTUET have helped us reach more people, run more courses, and grow a thoughtful, committed community.

By becoming a Friend, members can choose their level of involvement, starting from as little as £5 per month to be our Friend, £10 to be a Silver Friend, and £25 a month to be a Gold Friend.

As a Friend of the GFTUET you'll receive:

- Free access to every online course.
- One free in-person course each year (Gold Friends).
- Free access to our new Bitesize courses, available to watch whenever suits you.
- Discounted rates for selected conferences
- Invitation to our annual Friends anniversary celebration
- Invitation to our Friends Gala Dinner
- Regular newsletters

Most importantly, you'll be helping ensure independent trade union education continues to grow.



Education fund

The Education Fund helps ensure that GFTUET's independent education programme remains accessible to everyone.

If your union branch or regional organisation is not affiliated with the GFTU, or if you are part of a trades council, you can support the Fund to help sustain our independent education offer. Your contribution will ensure your members continue to enjoy full access to our high-quality education programmes.

By contributing to the Education Fund, you are investing in the future of workers' education and strengthening the trade union movement.

Union branch/region

- Small branches (under 500 members): £650.
- Large branches (500 or more members): £1,300.
- Regions of smaller unions (under 400k members nationally): £5,000.
- Regions of larger unions (over 400k members nationally): £10,000.

TUCS

- £100 minimum
- £650 medium
- £1,300 large





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EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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August 2026