

Reconnecting Trade Unions
and Community Organisations

Developing Trade Union Strategy for Community Development



Context

Many trade unions want to work more closely with community organisations and local communities. After all, they are natural allies.

Many community organisations have democratic structures similar to unions and their interests cover the full range of human concerns from housing to child care, health to arts, local planning to community services, to transport and environmental concerns.

However these two sectors do not have a history of working with each other and often have

unhelpful myths about each other. Concurrent with the shrinking of trade union activity through 'austerity' there has been a shrinking of community organisations and community activity. The collapse of local authorities, and civil society generally, have also inhibited local engagement and control over planning and other developments of communal space. Positively, there is a quiet resurgence of community organisations with an opportunity for meaningful partnerships with trade unions.

Intended Audience and Course aims

The course is aimed at those within trade unions who have or could have strategic responsibility for developing community engagement.

Building on the recent GFTU document 'A new deal for workers in the workplace and the wider community: Trade Unions and Community Organisations' this course argues for, and outlines how, trade unions can build local, national and international strategies for engaging with local communities and their organisations.

We will look at the history and approaches of community development, community organising and trade unionism, followed by some myth busting, with an aim to find common cause and build alliances with community organisations and

communities more generally. We will then explore a number of strategic ideas including

- Developing 'community memberships' and/ or 'community branches.'
- Creating opportunities to work together
- Working with local networks and Trades Union Councils
- Developing and engaging with national community work organisations
- Building 'working in the community', into contracts of employment
- Sharing of physical and building resources
- Developing Joint National Campaigning

Course structure

This will be a one day course in a seminar style with an intention for mutual learning and sharing of ideas and perspectives. It is intended that unions will feel empowered on how to take forward and develop a community strategy during the course.

The course will be facilitated by Professor Dr Mike Seal and guest speakers. He has worked within community development for 30 years and is a

committed trade unionist. He is a consultant, National Officer of the Professional Association of Lecturers in Youth and Community Workers and Visiting Professor at Newman University. He is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a National Teaching Fellow. He co-edited 'Trade Union Education: Transforming the World' and has written or edited 14 other books on community development and education.

Venue

Grange Hotel
88 Wood Lane
Quorn
Leicestershire LE12 8DB

Dates

8th December 2021

6th April 2022

20th June 2022

Fees

GFTU COURSE RATES:

Affiliated Unions:

£300 per person, per course
(Payment in advance only)

Non Affiliated Unions/Other Interested Parties:

£367 per person, per course
(Payment in advance only)

For payment options please email Mark Robinson (GFTU) markr@gftu.org.uk

ACCOMMODATION:

GFTU 24 hour rate

£130 per delegate:

This rate includes bed & breakfast, lunch, two hot beverage breaks and two course dinner

GFTU Day Delegate Rate

£40 per delegate:

This rate includes lunch and two hot beverage breaks

For the two day courses the cost would be one 24 hour rate and one day delegate rate

For further information please contact Mike Seal on 07773 781810

For course and Quorn Grange Hotel bookings

please contact Mark Robinson (GFTU) markr@gftu.org.uk

Deadline for booking Wednesday 1st December 2021 (maximum 16 delegates)

Nomination Form

Part A to be completed by delegate and Part B to be completed by Union Officer.

All fields below are mandatory. Applications will be referred back if any element of the form is not completed.

Please note: Course nomination forms **must** be returned to Mark Robinson at markr@gftu.org.uk

Part A

Course Code:	Course Code:	
Course Title: GFTU Developing Trade Union Strategy for Community Development 2021/22		
Title (please circle): Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr	Forename:	Surname:
Address: Postcode:	Home Tel No:	
	Work Tel No:	
	Email:	
Date of Birth:	Ethnicity:	
Union:		
Union Section (if any):	Union Position:	
Time in Union Posts:		
Employer/Company:		
Special Requirements (e.g. large print, tape, braille, disabled access, etc. For child care please phone our Education Trust team on 01509 410977 to discuss):		
Dietary Requirements (please tick): <input type="checkbox"/> Vegan <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> Non-vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state):		
Accommodation Required (please tick): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Terms and Conditions for Applicants Please insert an X in the boxes to add to your preferences and declarations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Opt out of marketing emails regarding upcoming courses	<input type="checkbox"/> Opt out of GFTU monthly newsletter	
Signed:	Date:	

Part B

The Nomination Form must be approved by the Union's General Secretary or a senior official having responsibility for making nominations.

Approved by:	
Position:	
Signed:	Date: