

Education Bulletin - August / September 2023

This is the Education Bulletin of the GFTU Educational Trust; a snapshot outlining new GFTU and partner learning opportunities as well as keeping you up-to-date in any changes and providing useful learning resources.

If you know someone who would benefit from this bulletin, let them know that they can sign up by emailing georgiaw@gftu.org.uk.



The education programme for 2023 and 2024 has been launched along with the brand new GFTU Educational Trust website.

[Visit our website here](#)

[Download the full programme here](#)

Bigger Picture Seminars

Venue: Online

Dates: 9th September 2023 - The Coup in Chile and the Rise of Neoliberal Economics
13th January 2024 - Conflict and Co-operation in a Multi-Polar World

These online, 90 minutes sessions are aimed at all trade unionists who want to take a step back in order to consider the wider forces at play that affect our lives. We know that the world is changing and that such changes affect us in many seen and unseen ways – but what do these changes mean for trade unionists and what influence can we bring to bear?

Price: Free for affiliates & non-affiliates.

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Trade Union and Working Class History

Venue: Online

Dates: These will take place on the third Tuesday of every month from 19th September 2023 to 20th August 2024, 7pm-8.30pm.

19th September 2023, 17th October 2023, 21st November 2023, 19th December 2023, 16th January 2024, 20th February 2024, 19th March 2024, 21st April 2024, 21st May 2024, 18th June 2024, 16th July 2024, 20th August 2024.

Price: Free for affiliates & non-affiliates.

Following the success of the 2021 programme of online courses, we will be running similar sessions with a few more added on. The 2021 programme included:

- The Modern Trade Union Movement
- The Peasants Revolt
- The 1549 Rebellions
- Winstanley and the Diggers
- The Levellers
- Captain Swing, Tolpuddle and the Luddites
- The Chartists
- A History of Workers' Education
- Great Women Trade Unionists
- Songs Making History

These online sessions will each last for 90 minutes and will focus on helping attendees understand the subject matter in an accessible and participative manner.

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Industrial Action Briefing

Venue: Online

Date: 28th September 2023 (10am-2pm)

Price: Free for affiliates & non-affiliates.

A half day online briefing for union activists and officers who want to understand more about the law around industrial action and what this means for holding successful ballots and delivering effective action. The first half will be supported by Morrish Solicitors (who provide expert advice and support to many of UK's unions on industrial action). The second half will draw on the wide experience of unions who have won ballots and gone onto to win for members through taking effective strike action.

Please note: The deadline for applications is 14th September 2023

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Bitesize Sessions: Organising & Campaigning

Venue: Online

Date: Every Monday for 10 weeks from 2nd October 2023 – 6.00-6.30pm.
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th October 2023, 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th November 2023, 6th December 2023.

Price: Free for non-affiliates. For non-affiliates: £50 (£5 a session).

A series of ten 30-minute online sessions that will build understanding of how union activists can run campaigns that have impact and help build the Movement.

The sessions will cover:

- Campaigning around issues
- Member centred campaigning
- Planning campaigns
- Campaign action
- Campaign communications
- Building networks of members
- The process of collective bargaining
- Involving members in bargaining
- Researching your pay claim
- Formulating your pay claim

Please note: The deadline for applications is 18th September 2023

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Trade Union Leadership and Innovation Programme (T.U.L.I.P)

View the education programme to find out specific dates, online follow-on sessions and prices.

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Courses: 5 two-day residential sessions

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.

Please note: The deadline for applications is Friday 22nd September.

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Workplace Reps Stage 1 (5 days)

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Courses: 11th – 13th October 2023 (Follow- on sessions: 20th October & 17th November 2023)
17th – 19th January 2024 (Follow-on sessions: 5th February & 4th March 2024)
26th – 28th June 2024 (Follow-on sessions: 19th July & 9th August 2024)

Price: Free for affiliates. For non-affiliates: £475

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 good communication with members and your union.

Please note: The deadline for applications for the October 2023 course is 27th September 2023. The deadline for applications for the January 2024 course 4th January 2024. The deadline for applications for the June 2024 course is 13th June 2024.

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Bitesize Sessions: Rep Introduction

For new union activists or union members thinking about getting more involved – these modules will form the GFTU’s “Passport to Activism”. The programme will run over 4 sessions on consecutive days with recordings available after each session.

What is a good rep?
16th October 2023

Building Solidarity
17th October 2023

The Union Difference
18th October 2023

Getting More Involved - Where Next?
19th October 2023

Price: Free for affiliates. For non-affiliates: £20 (£5 a session).

Please note: The deadline for applications is 2nd October 2023

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Organisational Culture and Sexual Harassment

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Dates: 20th October 2023 (part 1) / 11th December 2023 (part 2)

Price: Free for affiliates. For non-affiliates: £200

A course in two parts (with time for reflection and action in between) for union leaders designed to examine union culture and policies to ensure they are effective in preventing, identifying and eliminating sexual harassment. It will also look at how unions should deal with sexual harassment complaints within their own organisation.

Please note: The deadline for applications is 6th October 2023.

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Tackling Sexual Harassment

Venue: Online

Dates: 23rd October 2023 / 22nd January 2024 / 20th May 2024

Price: Free for affiliates. For non-affiliates: £50.

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.

Please note: The deadline for applications for the October 2023 course is 9th October 2023. The deadline for applications for the January 2024 course is 8th January 2024. The deadline for applications for the May 2024 course is 6th May 2024.

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Health and Safety Stage 1

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Courses: 25th – 27th October 2023 (Follow-on sessions: 20th November & 11th December 2023)
24th – 26th January 2024 (Follow-on sessions: 12th February & 11th March 2024)
7th – 9th May 2024 (Follow-on sessions: 31st May & 24th June 2024)

Price: Free for affiliates. For non-affiliates: £475

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.

Please note: The deadline for applications for the October 2023 course is 11th October 2023. The deadline for applications for the January 2024 course is 10th January 2024. The deadline for applications for the May 2024 course is 22nd April 2024.

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The Cost of Living Crisis (and how to get out of it)

Venue: Online

Dates: 30th October 2023 (1pm-4pm)
6th March 2024 (1pm-4pm)
5th July 2024 (9am-12noon)

Price: Free for affiliates. For non-affiliates: £25

A half-day online course supported by leading progressive economists to explore the economic issues that affect trade unions.

The course will be based on the arguments put forward in the GFTU pamphlet "[The True Causes of Inflation](#)" and the accompanying book "[The Cost of Living Crisis \(and how to get out of it\)](#)".

Please note: The deadline for applications for the October 2023 course is 27th October 2023. The deadline for applications for the March 2024 course is 1st March 2024. The deadline for applications for the June 2024 course is 28th June 2024.

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Young Members' Development Weekend

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Course: 3rd - 5th November 2023 / 10th - 12th May 2024

Price: Free for affiliates. £325 for non-affiliates.

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

Please note: The deadline for applications for the November 2023 course is 8th September 2023. The deadline for applications for the May 2024 course is 19th April 2024.

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Workplace Reps Stage 2 (5 days)

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Courses: 8th - 10th November (Follow-on sessions: 24th November & 8th December 2023)

14th – 16th February 2024 (Follow-on sessions: 8th March & 12th April 2024)

24th – 26th June 2024 (Follow-on sessions: 15th July & 5th August)

Price: Free for affiliates. For non-affiliates: £475

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.

Please note: The deadline for applications for the November 2023 course is 25th October 2023. The deadline for applications for the February 2024 course is 1st February 2024. The deadline for applications for the June 2024 course is 10th June 2024.

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Digital Strategy for Unions

A one-day in person course for union leaders to look at the opportunities offered by digital and its strategic importance for trade unions. We will be exploring some of the new concepts that have been developed by unions that combine the use of data with automated systems and digital information/communication platforms. This will be followed by a more in depth 2-day residential course to work with comms and digital officers on implementation for their union.

Part 1

Venue: Online

Date: 8th December 2023

Application Deadline: 24th November 2023

Price: £50 for affiliates. £100 for non-affiliates.

Part 2

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Course: 14th - 15th March 2024

Application Deadline: 29th February 2024

Price: £150 for affiliates. £285 for non-affiliates.

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Roots of Racism

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Courses: 11th & 12th December 2023
1st & 2nd February 2024
6th & 7th June 2024

Price: Free for affiliates. £100 for non-affiliates.

The course will be led by the prominent trade unionist Roger McKenzie.

We will be looking at understanding the context of racism and where it comes from, the rise and mainstreaming of the far right, as well as challenging racism in the workplace and the community.

Please note: The deadline for applications for the December 2023 course is 27th November 2023. The deadline for applications for the February 2024 course is 18th January 2024. The deadline for applications for the June 2024 course is 23rd May 2024.

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Health and Safety Stage 2

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Courses: 13th – 15th December 2023 (Follow-on sessions: 12th January & 2nd February 2024)
19th – 21st February 2024 (Follow-on sessions: 15th March & 11th April)

Price: Free for affiliates. For non-affiliates: £475

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.

Please note: The deadline for applications for the December 2023 course is 29th November 2023. The deadline for applications for the February 2024 course is 5th February 2024.

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Lessons in Organising

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Courses: 13th – 15th December 2023
12th – 14th February 2024
5th – 7th August 2024

Price: For affiliates: £200. For non-affiliates: £425

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 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 new General Secretary and others.](#)

Please note: The deadline for applications for the December 2023 course is 30th November 2023. The deadline for applications for the February 2024 course is 29th January 2024. The deadline for applications for the August 2024 course is 22nd July 2024.

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Developing Yourself as a Trade Union Educator

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Courses: 14th & 15th December 2023

Price: For affiliates: £150. For non-affiliates: £285

A follow-on course from our Train the Trainer course aimed at union educators who want to reflect on their education methods and explore inventive ways to design and run courses. It will also look at how to develop blended and online learning methods to support and enhance in person training courses.

Please note: The deadline for applications is 30th November 2023

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Bitesize Sessions: Equalities

Venue: Online

Dates: Every Monday for 10 weeks from 15th January 2024, 6.00-6.30pm. 15th, 22nd, 29th January 2024, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th February 2024, 4th, 11th, 18th March 2024.

Price: Free for affiliates. For non-affiliates: £50 (£5 a session).

A series of ten 30-minute online sessions that will each examine a different aspect of equality. Each session will explore help union activists promote equality and tackle inequality in their workplace.

The sessions will cover:

- Equality act
- Wider equality issues
- Reasonable adjustments and disability
- Age discrimination
- Equal pay for work of equal value
- Gender pay gap
- Sexual Harassment and Sex Discrimination
- LGBT+ equality issues
- Has racism been eradicated in the UK?
- The (not so) new far right

Please note: The deadline for applications is 2nd January 2024.

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Train the Trainer

Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Residential Course: 13th - 15th May 2024

Online Follow-on Sessions: TBC

Price: For affiliates: £150. For non-affiliates: £285.

This course is aimed at any activist or officer who delivers training for union activists. The aims of this introductory course are to equip participants to be able to run training sessions and to explore ways in which they can make sessions lively and interactive.

The broad outline of the course is:

- how adults learn and learning styles
- making group work
- variety of learning methods
- using a scheme of work
- assessment and evaluation
- dealing with difficult situations

At least one follow on session will be held online to support participants in planning and delivering their own session.

Please note: The deadline for applications is 29th April 2024.

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Bitesize Sessions: Employment Law

Venue: Online

Dates: Every Monday for 10 weeks from 3rd June 2024, 6.00-6.30pm.

Price: Free for affiliates. For non-affiliates: £50 (£5 a session).

A series of ten 30-minute online sessions that will each examine a different aspect of employment law. Each session will be focused on explaining the law in simple terms with the intention that union activists can use in their day-to-day activities. The sessions will cover:

- Case Law Update
- Bonfire of EU Regulation
- Limitations of employment law
- Employment law audit
- Redundancy
- TUPE
- Disciplinary and dismissal
- Grievances
- Time off for TU duties
- Information for collective bargaining

Please note: The deadline for applications is 20th May 2024.

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Venue: GFTU Quorn Grange

Dates: 19th - 22nd August 2024

Price: £200 for affiliates. £425 for non-affiliates.

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. It is aimed at union leaders who may be experienced, more senior workplace activists or may be full time officers.

Please note: The deadline for applications is 5th August 2024.

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Why (are wages falling and profits rising)?

Venue: Online

Dates: TBC

Price: Free for affiliates & non-affiliates.

Three short online sessions supported by SOAS to build understanding of key economic principles that help explain the decline in pay versus the rise in shareholder profit.

Session 1 will explore what is meant by the multiplier effect, money supply quantitative easing, public debt, balance of payments, etc and what they mean for wages and pay bargaining.

Session 2 will look at the role of the finance sector and what banks do.

Session 3 will concentrate on inflation, profit, productivity and wages.

The aim of all sessions will be to equip trade union negotiators with the arguments they need to counter the ongoing narrative that pay increases aren't affordable and are inflationary.

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September 11: Theatre Experience

Venue: Quorn Grange Hotel

Date: 30th September 2023, 10am-3pm. (This includes a break for refreshment when lunch will be provided and a post-performance talk).

Come along to SEPTEMBER 11, a theatre experience exploring how history and scientific information can be learned and discussed collectively,

SEPTEMBER 11 is realised as a research project sponsored by De Montfort University with the support of the General Federation of Trade Unions and the TUC Midlands.

Fran Sani is a writer, performer, and academic whose work looks at the use of participatory practice for scientific vulgarisation. His creative practice is developed with and for educators and trade unionists, including an ongoing collaboration with Unite Community and Woodcraft Folk.

Participation does not require previous experience with theatre. The project is devised to integrate conversations on economic democracy and enhance scientific vulgarisation among trade unionists. Apart from supplying a valuable contribution to academic research, your participation will offer you a challenging experience of discussion of what learning means.

[View a teaser here.](#)

Book a place by calling 01509410978 or emailing markr@gftu.org.uk.

Please note: The deadline for applications is 8th September.

Any Questions?

For information on courses, [click here](#).

To view all of our current & upcoming learning opportunities, [click here](#).

If you have any education related enquiries, please contact Mark Robinson, Education Administrator, via markr@gftu.org.uk or by calling 01509410978.

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