Scottish Union Learning Conference 2025

Developing Union Learning: Building Fair Work in the Workplace

Date: Thursday, 13 November 2025

Venue: Trade Union Education Centre,
Riverside Campus,
City of Glasgow College, G5 9XB

Agenda

09:15am **Registration**

09:50am **Welcome**
Wendy Burton, Director, Scottish Union Learning, STUC

10:00am **Keynote Address**
Ben Macpherson MSP, Minister for Higher and Further Education

10:20am **Workshops (Round 1)**

Workshop A:	Security and Fulfilment: Organising and Learning
Workshop B:	Effective Voice and Opportunity: Bargaining for Skills
Workshop C:	Respect: United Workplaces

12:10pm **Lunch**

12:50pm **Workshops (Round 2)**

Workshop A:	Security and Fulfilment: Organising and Learning
Workshop B:	Effective Voice and Opportunity: Bargaining for Skills
Workshop C:	Respect: United Workplaces

2:40pm **Conference Address**
Hugo Rivalta and Dani Acosta, Havana Glasgow Film Festival

3:00pm **Conference Address**
Dave Moxham, STUC Deputy General Secretary

3:20pm **Closing Remarks**
Wendy Burton, Director, Scottish Union Learning, STUC

3:30pm **Close**

Workshop information

All attendees will have the option of attending two out of three workshops. Workshops will be booked in advance at the point of registration.

Each session will be introduced by a Development Fund union.

Workshop A:	Security and Fulfilment: Organising and Learning
Facilitators:	STUC
Introduction:	Suzanne Cullinane, Union Learning Organiser, Unite Michael Conroy, Union Learning Organiser, Unite

There is a growing understanding across the trade union movement of the need to develop a dynamic workplace organising strategy to ensure that trade unions continue to implement Fair Work, prosper in the future and support workers to develop skills. Trade union learning can play a crucial role in building workplace strength. This workshop will explore how learning and development can contribute to the wider organising agenda.

Workshop B: Effective Voice and Opportunity: Bargaining for Skills
Facilitators: TUC Education
Introduction: Kevin Duguid,
Regional Learning & Development Organiser, UNISON

Learning and skills has been an incredibly successful area for unions, but in difficult times it needs a real push to get employers to engage. Unions have won important concessions from employers around changes to improve workers' skills. Negotiation has underpinned Union Learning Reps' work in guiding and supporting their colleagues' workplace learning. Persuading employers to enter into formal arrangements is never easy, and when trying to do so finding the necessary support is a key to success. This workshop discuss the skills necessary for effective bargaining.

Workshop C: Respect: United Workplaces
Facilitators: STUC
Introduction: Dan Henderson, Union Learning Organiser, RMT
Dennis Fallen, Learning Coordinator, RMT

Equality, diversity and inclusion have been hard won values in workplaces across Scotland, with more work still to be done. This workshop will explore how union led learning can equip ULRs and workers to advance equality, diversity and inclusion in workplaces, develop equality of access and skills pathways.

Photography notification:
A reminder that photographs will be taken during the event; if you do not wish to be captured in these images, please speak to a member of SUL staff who will assist you with this.

Tag the conference on social media using #SUL25

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