

TYPE TAGLINE HERE

# Educate to Organise 2016 - 2017

## Issue Date

Page 1

## What's it all about?

**Educate to Organise** grew out of a need to politicise ourselves, to answer some of the questions we frequently ask but seldom debate within the union - questions about our society and economy;

about democracy and globalisation; class and inequality; left and right wing politics and power.

But how?

**Educate to Organise** aims to address this but in a really unique way. Instead of dealing with, say, democracy or globalisation in a purely academic way, **Educate to Organise** looks instead at the role of a trade union in a democratic society or the effects of globalisation on workers and their unions. It is a programme produced by trade unionists, for trade unionists, with the aim of empowering all of us together to build stronger unions and effect positive change in our society.

See below for information on the three modules in Educate to Organise and our schedule for 2016/2017.



## Module 1 -

### Workers in Society

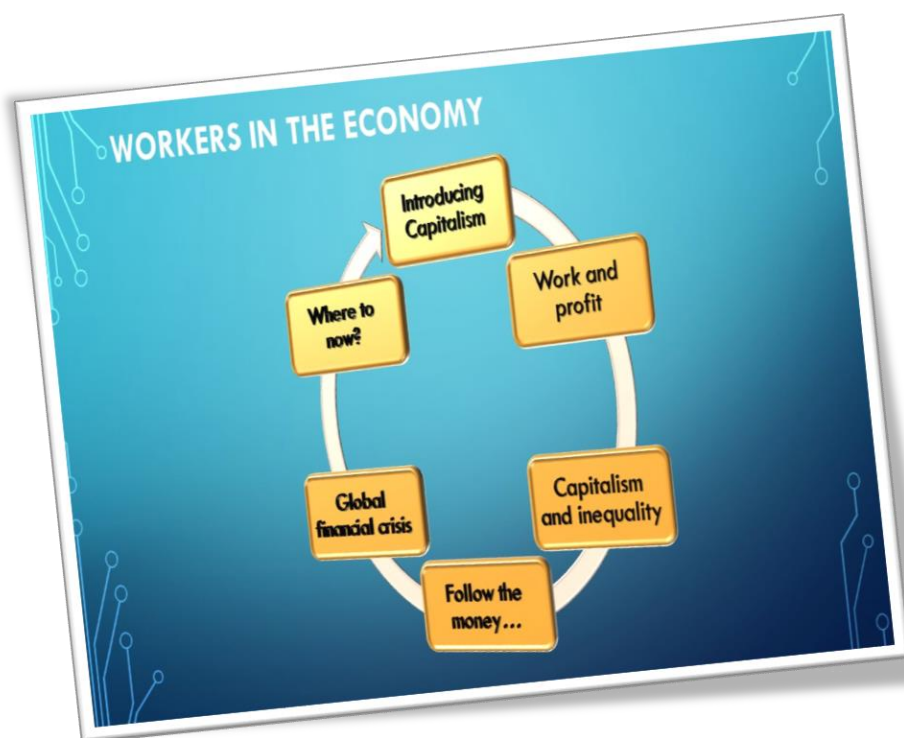
This module looks at workers in society in a particular way - looks at where workers are placed in society, at issues such as class, left and right wing politics, globalisation, inequality - and how these affect us all.



## Module 2

### Workers and the Economy

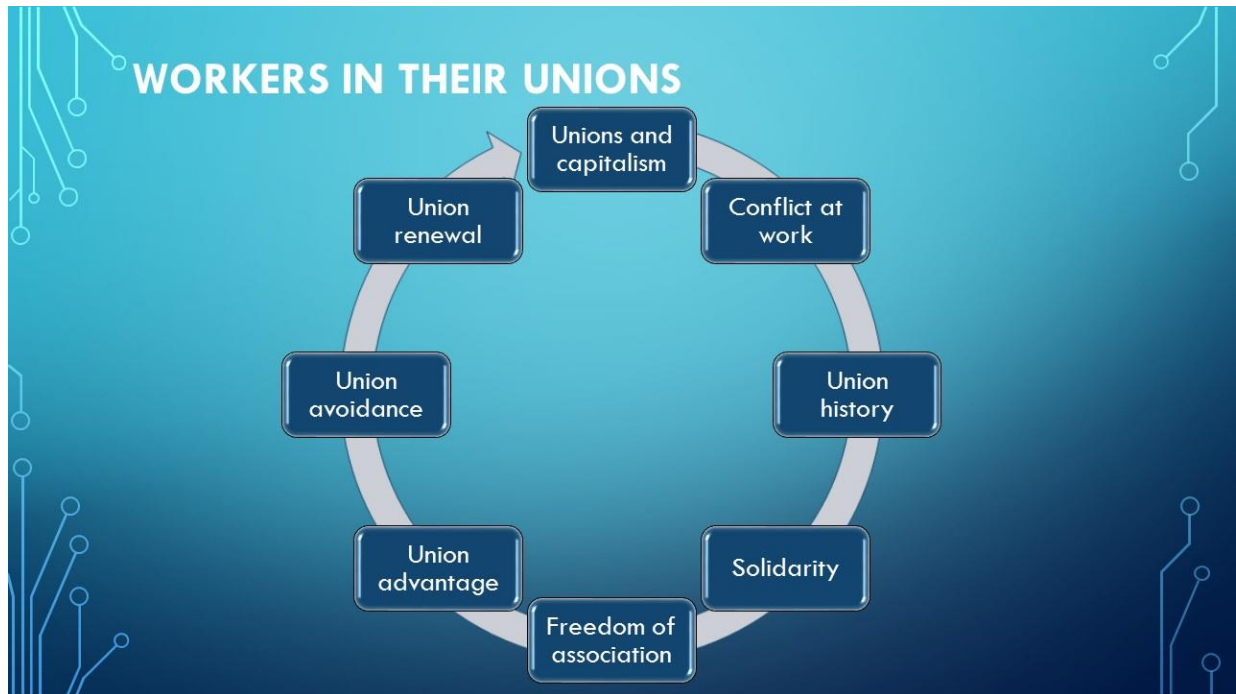
As the name implies, this module explores economics from the viewpoint of workers, helping to reach an understanding of how economic decisions affect workers and their families.



# Module 3

## Workers in their Unions

This module examines the history of the unequal relationship between workers and employers, explores the need and contribution of unions, before addressing the potential for union renewal with particular emphasis on organising in Irish trade unions.



*Educate to Organise* is usually delivered over a 2-hour session once a week, using a lively mix of lecture, film and debate. However this year we hope to also pilot a 'one-day-a-month' version - see schedule below.

Participants can expect to spend an additional two hours each week, reading and generally exploring the issues raised.

Reading materials are all provided and participants discuss their reading and its relevance to trade unions.

There are no essays or exams or qualifications needed or awarded. The whole idea is to think and read around a topic and apply it afterwards to our everyday trade union lives.



Each participant will be given access to 'Module Support' an on-line resource which provides access to all the materials needed to successfully complete *Educate to Organise*, including summaries of each week's discussions, reading materials, quizzes and options for feedback - this is currently being updated and will soon be available.

# Schedule

Cork - Mondays from 7-9pm -  
IMPACT offices, Union Quay

September 26<sup>th</sup>

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

Dublin - Tuesdays from 6-8pm -  
SIPTU College, South Circular  
Road, Kilmainham

September 27<sup>th</sup>

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

Galway - Thursdays 7-9pm -  
SIPTU Office, Forster Court

September 29<sup>th</sup>

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

## One Day a Month

Starting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of  
September, we are piloting a  
'one-day-a-month' version of  
Educate to Organise.

This will run on a **Wednesday**,  
from 9.30 to 5.30 in SIPTU  
College - dates are as follows: -

September 21<sup>st</sup>

October 19<sup>th</sup>

November 30<sup>th</sup>

January 11<sup>th</sup>

February 8<sup>th</sup>

March 22<sup>nd</sup>

April 26<sup>th</sup>

May 31<sup>st</sup>



We can't hope to change the world if at first we don't  
understand why it is the way it is!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact [tgibbons@siptu.ie](mailto:tgibbons@siptu.ie)



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q: Why Educate to Organise?

The idea behind **Educate to Organise** is to afford our key activists opportunities to meet and to explore some of the key issues we face as trade unionists: - how we engage as trade unionists with society, in politics, in the economy and within the union.

**Educate to Organise** hopes to open up the debate, among ourselves, about political affiliations, about globalisation and what it means for us; reach an understanding of the economic situation we find ourselves in and understand our role and that of the union movement generally.

## Q: How will Educate to Organise be delivered?

**Educate to Organise** has three separate modules - see the Brochure above. Participants meet for 2 hours each week - the dates and times vary at each location.

## Q: I'm not interested in boring old lectures!

That's just as well - that is not what **Educate to Organise** is going to be. Each session has some level of presentation or someone chairing the event (lecture, if you like) but also includes film, YouTube / other social media and discussion amongst the group. You will be

bringing your own experiences to the group which should help to make sure it's not too boring!

## Q: I never finished school / I'm uncomfortable about classrooms/writing essays/exams, is this for me?

Don't worry. **Educate to Organise** does not involve any written exam or essays. The aim is to encourage and facilitate discussion on the topics of the day in a secure place with like-minded individuals. You will need to do some reading in between sessions but nothing that's any more difficult than, for example, your collective agreement at work or a Labour Court recommendation, though a bit longer. There are core texts, which we will supply, always written in plain English and not hard to understand. At other times you might need to go on-line to maybe watch a film, complete a survey or explore various websites.

Submitting written assignments is not part of **Educate to Organise** - but your views on what you have watched is - thinking about the issue and discussing it at the next session is what is important.

## Q: I don't have much spare time, how will I manage?

We understand time is always an issue so we try to break up each module into manageable chunks and always leave several weeks between modules. This should help to fit it into a busy schedule. Also, any reading or preparation between sessions

shouldn't take more than 2 - 3 hours per week and you don't have to do it all at one time.

## Q: I've already done a lot of union training or college courses, is this just repetition?

**Educate to Organise** is different. Certainly it contains some elements you may have come across on other courses which touch on economics, industrial relations or sociology.

What makes **Educate to Organise** different is that it is not a training course teaching you how to represent members and it's not a college course aimed at getting you a qualification. It's a unique programme designed and delivered by trade unionists for trade unionists, aimed at equipping all of us to take a worker-centred, trade union viewpoint on the world around us; on the economy, on elections, on society. Once equipped with a view of the world around us, we can focus on how it needs to change for the good of working people.

Again, a warm welcome to **Educate to Organise** and we hope you find it a rewarding experience.



