Global Intergenerational Congress 2026

29th September – 1st October, Glasgow, Scotland

Call for sessions and papers – Deadline 15th Feb 2026

Introduction

The Global Intergenerational Congress invites thought leaders, practitioners, volunteers and researchers to contribute to a transformative dialogue that moves beyond discussion into meaningful action. Our aim is to create an environment where listening, trust, and collaboration lead to lasting relationships and innovative solutions for a world that values intergenerational practice as essential to everyday life.

Hosted by **Generations Working Together**, with support from expert researchers and practitioners worldwide, the Congress will feature cutting-edge research, projects, and practices across a wide range of intergenerational topics.

The full programme will be announced in Spring 2026 and will be an in-person event. (Once the programme is confirmed we hope, if possible, to offer a few of the main auditorium sessions online for those who cannot attend in person.) Here's a glimpse of what we have in store:

- **Day 1 (9am – 5pm):** Full conference programme at the University of Strathclyde's Innovation and Technology Centre, Glasgow
- **Evening (6-7.30pm) -** A Civic Reception hosted by Glasgow City Council
- **Day 2 (9am – 5pm):** Full conference programme at the University of Strathclyde's Innovation and Technology Centre, Glasgow
- **Evening** – An opportunity for delegates to meet up, go for dinner and get to know one another. Delegates will be introduced to a Community App within the Whova Congress App where attendees can find a buddy, arrange meet ups and create small groups.
- **Day 3 (9am – 12.30pm):** The morning will focus on a variety of topics which will look to address important key areas/challenges on how we move the learning within our field from ideas to action.
- **Day 3 (Free Afternoon)** You are free to catch up with colleagues and new friends over lunch or drinks or go exploring around the city of Glasgow.
- **The Final Fling (Hootenanny) - GWT's 2026 Intergenerational Excellence Awards Dinner and Ceilidh**. An evening for new/existing friends to come together to celebrate the Congress, to taste beautiful Scottish cuisine, celebrate with the new winners and highly commended projects from GWT's 2026 National and International Excellence Awards to be announced during the evening and then to relax and enjoy some great Scottish music and dancing with our very own Ceilidh band.

Our goal is to co-create a series of actionable steps that will advance the intergenerational field. To inspire innovation and focused dialogue, we have framed the key subject areas as challenges. We invite you to address these challenges in your sessions, sharing insights,

solutions, and practical examples. Your contributions will enable us to compile a collective roadmap from each subject area, which we will share widely to influence practice, policy, and research on a global scale.

Key subject areas for submissions

1. **Intergenerational Approaches to Education**
   How can intergenerational approaches enhance educational outcomes, foster empathy, and build inclusive learning communities? Exploring innovative sustainable models that connect early years, schools, higher education, and lifelong learning through intergenerational good practice.

2. **Homes and Communities across Generations**
   Explore how homes, neighbourhoods, and public spaces can be designed to foster meaningful connections between generations. It emphasises inclusivity, accessibility and sustainability, ensuring that all ages can live, learn and thrive together. With existing intergenerational housing models already integrating architecture, policy, and community engagement, what is stopping these models from being replicated or scaled up?

3. **Intergenerational Climate Action**
   How can generations work together to address climate change and impact upon policy and decision making? We welcome sessions on:
   - Community-led sustainability projects.
   - Youth and older adult partnerships in environmental advocacy.
   - Policy and practice for climate resilience.

4. **Transforming Health and Wellbeing through sustainable good quality Intergenerational Approaches**
   Intergenerational programmes which improve physical, mental, and social health are often funded on a short-term, ad-hoc basis rather than developing sustainable models embedded into policy. What can we put in place to change this approach? Topics examples:
   - Collaborative health initiatives.
   - Reducing loneliness and isolation.
   - Age-inclusive wellbeing strategies

5. **Research Driving Change**
   Knowledge should be a catalyst for innovation. What changes can be made to increase the impact of research upon policy, grass-roots practice and innovation?

6. **Multi-Generational Workplaces**
   How can organisations create inclusive, collaborative environments where multiple generations thrive together? What policies and practices can they embed to leverage generational strengths and boost innovation, productivity, and wellbeing whilst also addressing challenges such as ageism, flexible working, and knowledge transfer, in a rapidly changing world of work?

We also welcome submission on these focus areas:

Ageism: 44% of Gen Z candidates report being explicitly rejected for a job due to their age, which is almost double the rate for older generations 24% (Totaljobs). How can intergenerational work reduce perceptions for both younger and older people?	**Artificial Intelligence (AI):** How can AI empower grassroots organisations, support admin tasks, promote digital inclusion, and enable translation?	**Arts & Culture:** How can arts and cultural practices foster intergenerational understanding, collaboration and social change?
Developing relationships in the field How can we encourage reflection on how we build authentic partnerships and alliances that last beyond the Congress. How do we create networks that drive systemic change?	**Diversity and Inclusive Communities** How can we celebrate difference and build unity through intergenerational innovation? What can be done to support and encourage communities to join the intergenerational movement?	**Evaluation and Impact** Evaluation is always the elephant in the room. How can intergenerational grassroots be encouraged to measure the impact of their work and how do we build confidence in measuring impact and strengthen feedback loops to improve intergenerational practice especially around relationships?
Government/Federal Policy (local/regional/national) How can intergenerational work become an essential part of everyday life through policy? Can you share strategies, to embed, engage with policymakers better and/or share existing learning.	**Influencing funding strategies and demonstrating impact** How can we support and inspire funders to recognise the value that comes from long-term sustainable intergenerational programmes rather than short time bound ones.	**Quality and best practice** How can we raise standards and embed best practice to ensure intergenerational work is impactful, sustainable and scalable? What does good quality intergenerational best practice look like? How do we know?
Volunteering How can volunteering become truly intergenerational and embed best practice for all ages?	**Youth Leadership and Development** How can young leaders shape intergenerational practice and drive change in their communities?	

When presenting on these topics we challenge contributors to consider:
"How we make take the learning from the Congress and make it meaningful?"

Sessions should inspire action, foster collaboration, and create pathways for ongoing partnerships.

Session formats

1. **Participative Workshops (1 hour 15 minutes)**

Involves best practice models, research, policy, or transformation, followed by hands-on group work for active discussion and shared learning.

Set up: Each session will include a projector and screen to support presentations and discussion. To ensure everything runs smoothly, presenters are asked to:

- Upload their presentation in advance to the **Whova app** for delegate access.
- Bring a **USB drive with a copy of the presentation** as a backup on the day.
- Plan for a **minimum of two presenters** to facilitate the session effectively.

2. **Intergenerational dialogue panels (30 minutes)**

Real-life conversations across generations, sharing lived experiences, challenges, and ideas for creating more opportunities.

Setup: Panels should reflect a diversity of perspectives, including voices from young people, older adults, and, where possible, family members or practitioners/staff**.** This mix ensures rich dialogue and authentic experiences.

For international delegates unable to attend in person, we welcome **recorded contributions** as part of the session. Please upload any video content in advance to the **Whova app** for delegate access.

3. **Stories from the Field (15 minutes)**

Each presenter gets 15 mins to share either practice or research, so you get to hear about lots of different projects in a relatively short space of time.

Set-up: These sessions are designed to be **informal and conversational**, creating space for open dialogue and networking. No AV equipment will be provided, so presenters are welcome to bring **leaflets, handouts, or other printed materials** to share with participants.

4. **Interactive discussion hubs (1 hour 15 minutes)**

Encourages small-group dialogue on key topics, with participants rotating tables to share insights. The presenter provides a very brief overview (10 mins max) of a concept, idea, project, challenge or strategy to stimulate collaborative conversations around the tables. Small groups of 6 – 8 participants discuss the questions then move to another table for a different question. Each hub will concentrate on one of the key subjects or focus areas. Short feedback will be shared at the end.

Set up: A projector & screen will be included. To ensure smooth delivery, presenters are asked to:

- Upload their presentation in advance to the **Whova app** for delegate access.
- Bring a **USB drive with a copy of the presentation** as a backup on the day.
- Plan for a **minimum of two presenters** per session.
- Note that each hub will accommodate a maximum of **30 participants**, creating an interactive and focused environment.

5. **Practice and Research Spotlight**

This session features posters and a short film which shines a light on innovative intergenerational programmes and cutting-edge research from around the world. Participants gain practical insights, explore evidence-based approaches, and discover how theory and practice intersect to create meaningful impact. Each spotlight offers an opportunity to learn, question, and connect with leaders driving change in the intergenerational field.

Set up: Each entry will provide an A3 poster along with a short film which delegates are able to access from their own phone/laptop/iPad via a QR code capturing the participant stories.

6. **Next level dialogues (Day 3 only) (2.5 hrs - 3hours)**

These extended sessions are designed to foster meaningful collaboration and generate practical, actionable outcomes. Together, we will explore critical challenges and opportunities shaping the future of intergenerational practice. Key areas for discussion may include:

- **Funding and Sustainability:** How can we encourage funders to invest in dedicated intergenerational initiatives, enabling practitioners to scale and strengthen their work?
- **Evaluation and Impact:** What strategies can we use to support practitioners in enhancing the quality and consistency of evaluation for intergenerational projects?
- **Capacity and Resilience:** How do we address the significant challenges of workforce capacity and volunteer hours to ensure projects remain resilient and sustainable?

Our aim is to move beyond dialogue—towards shared solutions and commitments that advance intergenerational work globally.

Each session will have a clear purpose and a supportive structure, with guided discussions that encourage collaboration and creativity. Conversations will focus on identifying priorities and considering practical actions that can help drive systemic change.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Work in small groups to **develop strategies for ongoing collaboration beyond the congress**.
- **Deepen understanding of key topics**, sharing insights and learning from diverse perspectives.

These sessions are designed to be open, constructive, and action-oriented—ensuring that ideas lead to meaningful connections and tangible next steps.

Set up: Each forum will be equipped with a projector and screen to support presentations and discussion. Sessions are designed for **2–4 presenters** and will accommodate a maximum of **30 participants** to ensure an interactive and engaging experience.

Presenters are kindly asked to:

- Bring any presentation files on a **USB drive** for use on the day.
- Upload their presentation in advance to the **Whova app** for delegate access.
- Indicate their **preferred timing** when confirming participation.

Submission details

All proposals must be submitted by **end of day, Sunday 15th February 2026 (GMT)**.
Please ensure that your submission includes **all requested information** and is completed using the online submission form. Submissions after the deadline cannot be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Please ensure your session is accessible and engaging for all delegates, recognising that participants will have varying levels of expertise in intergenerational work and may bring specialist knowledge from other fields.

How proposals will be reviewed
Each submission will be carefully considered by **GWT's Congress Program Committee**.
Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Originality:** We aim to showcase unique and innovative sessions that reflect the creativity and dynamism of our community.
- **Relevance:** Sessions should address topics of significant interest and provide clear value to the Congress audience.
- **Quality:** Proposals should demonstrate high standards of content and delivery.
- **Intergenerational participation:** Be creative in ensuring that voices from younger and older generations are represented.
- **Interactivity:** Sessions should be engaging and encourage active participation for all delegates.

Essential Submission Requirements
Your proposal should include:

- Confirmation that the **lead presenter will attend in person**.
- Alignment with one or more of the **Congress key subject or focus areas**.
- Clear indication of which subject(s) your session addresses.
- Preferred session format (e.g., workshop, panel, interactive discussion).

- A short **bio** for each presenter (max 150 words) and a **high-quality headshot**. Please indicate if presenters represent different generations or sectors.
- A session title (max 15 words).
- A session description (max 150 words) highlighting how it will be interactive (avoid purely lecture-style formats unless justified).
- **2–3 learning outcomes** for participants (max 60 words).
- Expected outcomes or takeaways (e.g., practical tools, policy insights, research findings).

Guidance
Please ensure your session:

- Is grounded in **research, case studies, or real-world practice**.
- Explains how attendees can apply the knowledge in their own contexts (e.g., community projects, policy development).
- Includes references or examples that demonstrate credibility.
- Considers **intergenerational diversity, cultural sensitivity, and accessibility**.
- Indicates if materials will be available in multiple formats (slides, handouts, digital resources).
- Outlines safeguarding measures if volunteers or sensitive topics are involved.
- Complies with ethical standards for research or practice.

Individuals may serve as a **Lead Presenter** on up to **two proposal submissions during Day 1 & 2 and one for the morning of Day 3**. We recommend reviewing the submission form before completing your online entry.

Lead Presenter Responsibilities
The Lead Presenter acts as the primary point of contact for the session and ensures smooth coordination. Key responsibilities include:

1. **Complete Submission**
   Provide accurate and complete details for all presenters within the proposal.
2. **Availability**
   Keep the dates **29 September – 1 October 2026** reserved until your proposal status is confirmed.
3. **Communication**
   - Inform all presenters whether the proposal has been accepted or declined.
   - Confirm each presenter's participation and registration for the Congress.
   - Notify **Generations Working Together** promptly of any changes to the proposal.
4. **Registration**
   All presenters must register and pay for the Congress.
5. **Presentation Deadline**
   Submit your final presentation by **Friday 14th August at 5pm (BST)** via the Whova app. Further details will be shared closer to the date.
6. **Session Integrity**
   Deliver the content as outlined in your proposal and ensure it meets Congress standards.

7. **Non-Commercial Policy**
   Sessions should not be used to promote or sell products or services.
8. **Compliance**
   Adhere to all Congress policies on inclusivity, accessibility, and safeguarding.

Presenter Responsibilities
All presenters share responsibility for delivering a high-quality, engaging session. To ensure smooth coordination and a positive experience for delegates, please note the following:

1. **Provide Information**
   Submit complete contact details and a short biography to the Lead Presenter.
2. **Availability**
   Keep the dates **29 September – 1 October 2026** reserved until your proposal status is confirmed.
3. **Registration**
   All presenters must register and pay for the Congress.
4. **Session Integrity**
   Deliver the content as outlined in your proposal and ensure it meets Congress standards.
5. **Non-Commercial Policy**
   Sessions should not be used to promote or sell products or services.
6. **Professional Standards**
   Follow Congress guidelines on **inclusivity, accessibility, and safeguarding** throughout your session.

Status Notification

We anticipate notifying lead presenters starting **Monday, 30th March 2026**. The lead presenter will be responsible for updating all co-presenters. Please keep **29th September – 1st October 2026** reserved until your proposal status is confirmed. While we will do our best to accommodate preferences, we cannot guarantee specific days or times for presentations. To include as many topics as possible, sessions may be combined with complementary themes. If this occurs, you will be informed in advance.

For any questions, please contact us at office@generationsworkingtogether.org.

Registration Fees

All presenters are required to register for the Congress and pay the **discounted presenter registration fee of £326.**

Please note: **Your session will only be confirmed once all presenters have completed registration.**

The presenter registration fee includes:

- Access to **Day 1 & Day 2**, admission to the **Civic Reception** and Attendance at the **Excellence Awards Dinner & Hootenanny (Day 3 evening)**

The next level dialogue sessions held on **Day 3** will be available at an **additional cost** of **£49. If you submit a presentation for Day 3 to lead a workshop, please ensure you also register at this link.**

Unfortunately, due to budget constraints Generations Working Together cannot cover registration, travel, accommodation, or other expenses for presenters.

Accommodation

Details of discounted room rates for conference attendees will be available on GWT's Congress page website.

Audio-Visual Equipment

Workshop rooms will have a projector, screen, and hook-up for your PC, free of charge. Due to their unique nature, tablet or Mac users should plan to bring adapters to connect to the projector.

Venues

Day 1 and 2 (approx. 09.00 – 17.00) will take place in the University of Strathclyde's Technology and Innovation Centre, 99 Geroge Street, Glasgow, G1 1RD.

Day 1 (18.00-19.30) – Civic reception, Banqueting Hall, Glasgow City Chambers, 82 George Square, Glasgow, G2 1DU

Day 2 - Evening – free time to network and enjoy the sites of Glasgow.

Day 3 – Morning sessions will take place in the University of Strathclyde's Technology and Innovation Centre, 99 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1RD

Day 3 – (6pm – midnight) The Final Fling (Hootenanny) GWT's 2026 Intergenerational Excellence Awards, Dinner and Ceilidh. Citation, 40 Wilson Street, Merchant City, Glasgow, G1 1HD