

15th Annual Conference
Tuesday 1st December 2026
Liverpool Hope University

Radical Hope, Renewal and Change-Making in Education

*Hope just means another world might be possible, not promised, not guaranteed.
Hope calls for action¹*

In a world of unprecedented change, complexity and polycrisis, communities face many challenges. As educators, how do we ensure that our voices and values are not lost amongst the surrounding noise and despair? Is what we are teaching adequate to the times we are living in? How do we ensure that education can be a force for positive change and renewal? Central to this process is the belief that education enables change-makers - young people and educators across providers and settings, researchers, practitioners and policy makers - who can act in solidarity with each other and their communities.

This conference will engage with the idea of *radical hope* and its potential to direct us towards more just and sustainable futures, not yet fully imagined². It will also respond to UNESCO guidance to build on 'existing positive efforts'³, by celebrating the legacy of transformative work already underway and creating space to share research, practices and policies that can inspire action for change. By learning from one another, we strengthen our common ground.

We welcome 300-word proposals from all types of educators, across the UK and beyond. We are interested in individual and co-authored research, examples of practice, workshops and creative contributions.

Proposals should respond to one or more of the following themes:

The idea of *radical hope* as a response to evolving challenges and crises. What possibilities exist for education which can:

- engage with hope and the struggle to think anew about the world, without resorting to uncritical solutions
- navigate between understanding histories of oppression, building on practices of resistance, and envisioning new possibilities for peace, justice, and sustainability

¹ Solnit, R. 2024. Hope in the Dark. Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities

² Lear, J. 2006. Radical Hope, Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation

³ <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/recommendation-education-peace-human-rights-and-sustainable-development-implementation-guide>

The process of education in facilitating change-makers and connecting learning to change. How do we:

- make visible, and evaluate the effectiveness of, processes that can enable learners, educators and communities to critically explore and co-create alternative futures
- empower educators, including those training to be teachers, as co-designers, implementers and researchers of curriculum and pedagogy

The potential for policies to support educators and young people in transforming systems. What do we understand about the ways in which:

- educators or young people enact, experience and make their voices heard in education policy orientated towards just, sustainable and more hopeful futures
- global policy commitments to transforming education systems are translated to support alignment of policy, practice and research in national, regional and local contexts

The role of collaborative and collective approaches. What examples do we have of approaches which:

- are creative and innovative, and promote inclusive opportunities for collaboration, participation and acting with others
- promote a sense of connectedness, belonging and ethical relation with a common and diverse planet

TEESNet activity deliberately cuts across sectors.

Please send a proposal of no more than 300 words in Word format to andrea@liverpoolworldcentre.org and karen@liverpoolworldcentre.org by **Monday 20th July 2026** with the email subject 'TEESNet 2026 CFP'.

Proposals should include the following:

- Title of paper or proposal in the form of a workshop or provocation, and key words (paper only)
- Name, institution/organisation (where relevant) and email address of presenter(s)
- An outline of the proposal in no more than 300 words clearly indicating: which theme you are responding to; the purpose of the research or the question(s)/ideas(s) being explored in practice; relevant theory, conceptual frameworks, methods or approaches used; results or conclusions and implications.

Proposals will be peer reviewed by a sub-group of the TEESNet Steering Committee.

Decisions about whether or not proposals have been accepted, and any developments required, will be communicated in September 2026.

If you would like to discuss your proposal before submitting please email andrea@liverpoolworldcentre.org