

2026



FESTIVAL OF INCLUSIVE TRADE

**Reclaiming Inclusion
through Global Trade**



The GTPA is thrilled to announce the return of the Festival of Inclusive Trade for 2026!

Following a brief pause, the Festival is back—reaffirming our commitment to inclusive, sustainable global trade. Returning to its online-only format, the 2026 Festival will be held over two impactful weeks in March 2026, bringing together a rich diversity of voices from around the globe.

Launched in 2020 by the Global Trade Professionals Alliance (GTPA), the Festival of Inclusive Trade remains a groundbreaking platform at the intersection of trade, sustainability, and the creative industries—an area representing 7% of global GDP.

It champions innovation, cooperation, and above all, inclusivity.

This year's theme will be:
"Reclaiming Inclusion through Global Trade."

Two Weeks. Two Themes.

One Vision for a More Equitable Future.



In 2026, the global economy faces a defining moment. Amid economic fragmentation, climate uncertainty, and social unrest, trade is under intense scrutiny.

Often seen as favouring the elite, globalisation has generated backlash from communities who feel left behind.

Yet trade, when reimagined, holds immense power—not only to drive economic growth but to foster inclusion, collaboration, and shared prosperity.

The Festival of Inclusive Trade returns with a bold agenda: to unpack the challenges of our time, inspire moral leadership, and forge new, trust-based international partnerships grounded in cooperation rather than competition.

The Festival brings together trade professionals, artists, entrepreneurs, youth leaders, policymakers, and communities for two weeks of powerful online dialogue, performance, and collaboration.



Message from the Festival Director



**Ms Collins Rex
Festival Director**

The Festival that invites the world to the conversation

There's something magical about gathering like-minded people from every corner of the globe—without anyone needing to pack a bag or queue at immigration. Something engaging, a bit defiant, and in the current climate, necessary.

That's the magic at the heart of the Festival of Inclusive Trade.

We're coming back in 2026 not with a shout, but with a steady, strong voice.

After a short pause, the Festival returns online, as it began, stretching over two weeks in March.

It's a quiet kind of revolution: a global conversation unfolding across screens, time zones, languages, and lived experiences.

An act of rebuilding in a time when it's easy to lose faith.

Message from the Festival Director

This year's theme, Reclaiming Inclusion through Global Trade, is more than timely—it's urgent.

The world around us feels fragile. Economies are fragmenting. Trust is thinning. But still we gather. Because inclusive trade, when done right, doesn't just fill coffers—it bridges divides. It gives those often forgotten in the global system – women, youth, First Nations people, diaspora communities – seats at the table, not as guests, but as leaders.

Each session, each work of art, each shared story becomes a thread—knitting together a new kind of trade tapestry. One stitched with respect, equity, and imagination.

In 2026, we invite countries to co-host, not as figureheads, but as co-creators. We ask artists and entrepreneurs, policymakers and students, to join hands across the virtual divide and dream aloud. Week one will dive deep into how trade can bridge, rather than widen the gap. Week two will explore how trust—not profit alone—might be the truest currency of all.

This isn't just a festival. It's a chance to remember how much better we are when we act together. It's an open invitation. Sit with us. Linger in the dialogue. Listen to voices you haven't heard before. Let's shape trade, not just for the strong, but for the many. And let's do it with purpose, and hope for a better future.

Redefining Inclusivity During Economic Turbulence

March 2026



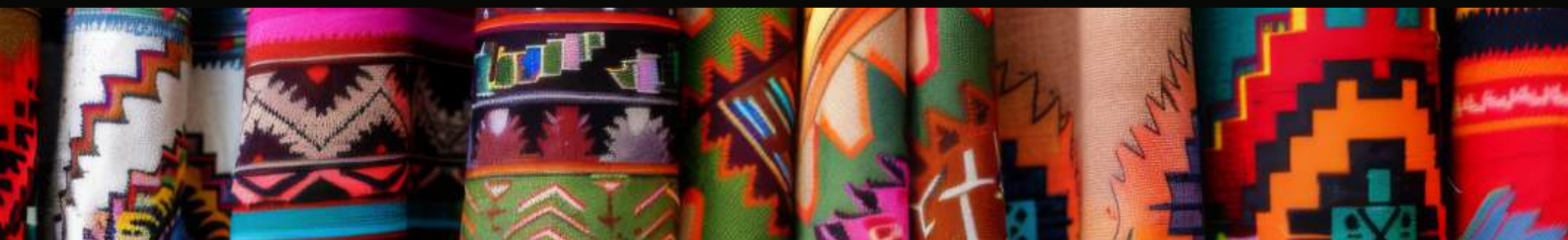
Two Weeks.

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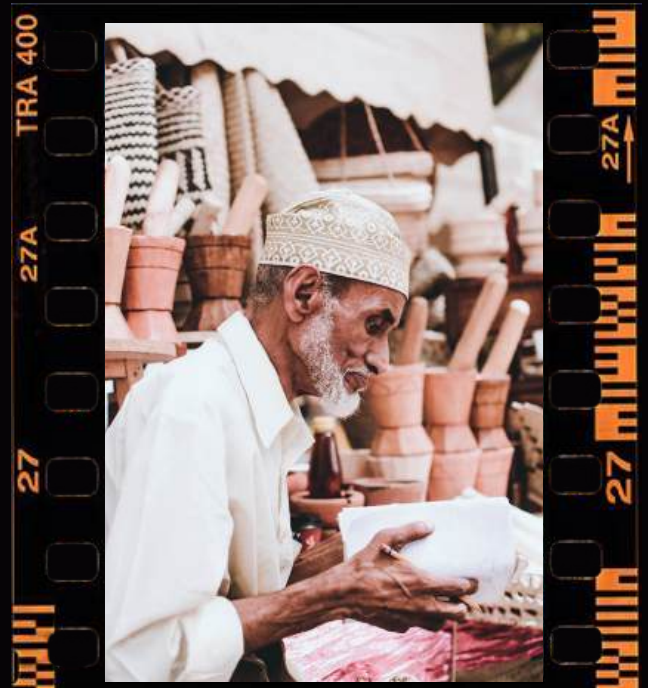
**One Vision for a More
Equitable Future.**

**Fully
Online**

**Global
Reach**



FESTIVAL OVERVIEW



WEEK 1:

INCLUSIVE TRADE IN AN AGE OF ECONOMIC TURBULENCE



**MAKING TRADE WORK FOR
EVERYONE—NOT JUST THE
WEALTHY FEW.**

Why this theme matters

A growing divide between rich and poor, populist resentment, and structural inequality have created an anti-globalisation sentiment that wrongly blames trade for widening gaps.

But this week aims to challenge that narrative and highlight how inclusive trade systems can counteract inequity, empower underrepresented communities, and deliver tangible social outcomes.

We will spotlight the communities disproportionately impacted by economic instability, from First Nations entrepreneurs to women in trade and youth innovators.

Participants will explore how inclusive trade can be leveraged to build back fairer and stronger.



Ideas for Key Topics

- **Trade and Inequality:**
Understanding the global backlash and reframing the conversation
- **Inclusive Trade Policy:**
Designing systems for equitable outcomes
- Women, Youth, Diaspora & First Nations Leadership in Trade
- Cultural Economies as Agents of Trade Diplomacy
- SMEs and Fair Access to Trade Tools
- Climate Resilience & Just Transitions in Trade Systems
- The Role of Arts and Storytelling in Changing the Trade Narrative



WEEK 2:
BUILDING NEW ALLIANCES
THROUGH TRUST, MORALS &
MUTUAL RESPECT



FROM TRANSACTIONAL TO
TRANSFORMATIONAL: TRADE
AS A TOOL FOR TRUST, NOT
TENSION.

Why this theme matters



In a fractured global landscape, traditional alliances are being tested. A new model is emerging—one built on shared values, cultural diplomacy, and human connection rather than purely transactional benefits.

Trade can be a tool not of exploitation, but of cooperation, and the Festival offers a platform to showcase such alliances.

This week explores the power of trust, ethics, and friendship in reshaping trade partnerships—especially across emerging economies and regions committed to peace and mutual prosperity.

We'll also examine the role of creative diplomacy, youth-led entrepreneurship, and digital cooperation in laying the groundwork for a new global order.

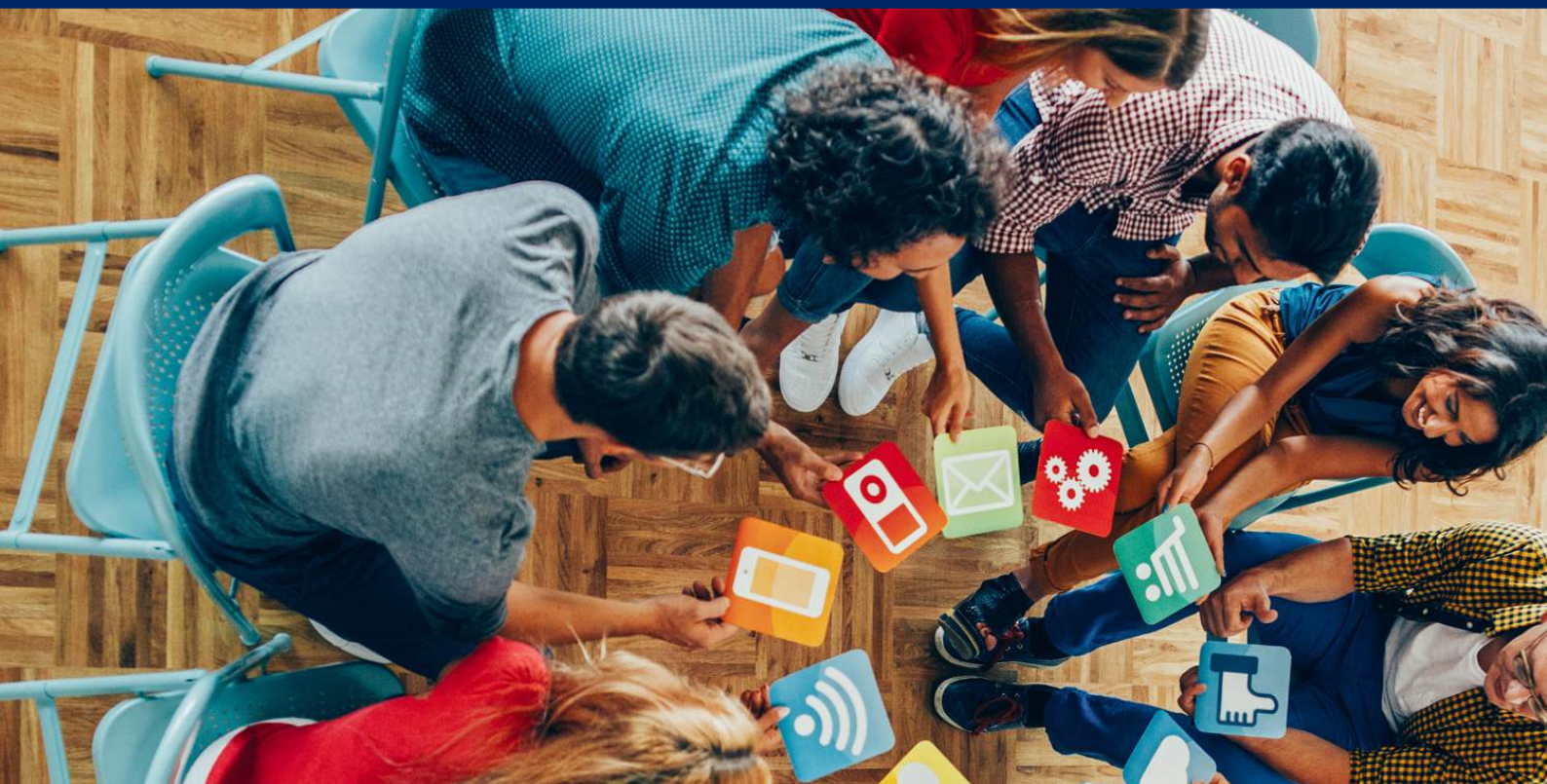
Suggested Key Topics



- Trust as the New Currency in Global Trade
- **Rebuilding Morality in Markets:** Ethics, Transparency, and Inclusion
- Friendshoring and Values-Based Supply Chains
- Public Diplomacy Through Sport, Art, and Music
- **New Global Relations:** A Model for Values-Based Partnership
- Strategic Youth & Entrepreneur Networks as Bridges for Peace
- **Digital Commons & Tech Diplomacy:** Linking innovation ecosystems
- Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Ties through Shared Culture

Why This Festival, Why Now?

- **Global Reset Needed:** The world needs new models of trade that are inclusive, ethical, and resilient.
- **Platform for Change:** This Festival is uniquely positioned to bring together policymakers, creatives, businesses, and underrepresented voices in one shared space.
- **Cross-Cultural Diplomacy:** Global partnerships exemplify how strategic cooperation grounded in mutual respect can inspire broader regional stability and innovation.
- **Online-Only Model:** Ensures wide accessibility across geographies, sectors, and backgrounds—removing the barriers to participation.



Let's Shape the Future—Together

The Festival is open to everyone. Whether you're an artist, entrepreneur, policymaker, academic, business leader, student, or simply curious, you are welcome to participate in a way that aligns with your goals and interests.

While the GTPA will deliver some programming and invite leading global experts to share their insights, this Festival is designed as a truly collaborative platform.

We encourage organisations, communities, and individuals everywhere to shape the experience by proposing and hosting their own events—with their own speakers, ideas, and perspectives.

Your contribution can take any form: a fireside chat, a panel discussion, an educational seminar, a workshop, a networking event, or any other format that sparks dialogue and connection.

The same spirit of openness applies to the Festival's creative dimension. Our art program is open for all to participate—submit your work, curate an installation, host an exhibition, or nominate pieces to be showcased. We believe art has the power to expand the conversation, challenge assumptions, and humanise global trade in new and meaningful ways.

Let's Shape the Future—Together

There are many ways to get involved:

- Host your own event
- Submit or curate art
- Sponsor a session or activity
- Become a country host partner
- Join as a corporate or community partner

We invite countries to co-host not as symbolic figureheads, but as genuine co-creators.

We invite artists and entrepreneurs, policymakers and students, to learn from one another and build the future of trade together.

This is an open invitation. Take part. Sit with us. Share your voice—and listen for the voices you've never heard before.

Together, let's shape a trading system that serves not just the powerful, but the many.

And let's do it with intention, imagination, and hope for a better future.





GTPA
GLOBAL TRADE PROFESSIONALS ALLIANCE

Education. Tools. Support. Certification. Collaboration. All in one global solution.

At the Global Trade Professionals Alliance (GTPA), we believe that today's global challenges demand collaborative, cross-border solutions. That's why we unite individuals, businesses, and trade organisations under one powerful mission:

To build a more resilient, inclusive, and opportunity-rich global trade ecosystem.

We don't just deliver value — we co-create it. Whether you're an individual professional, a business, or a trade organisation, GTPA offers flexible ways to engage, build capacity, and drive measurable impact.

For any engagement opportunities or inquiries regarding country hosting and content development, please contact our Festival Director:

Festival Director

Ms. Collins Rex
collinsrex@gtpalliance.com

**For partnership opportunities, please reach out to:
Partnerships**

Ms. Lisa McAuley
lisamcauley@gtpalliance.com

We encourage you to connect with Collins for involvement in programming, country representation, or content development, and with Lisa for exploring collaboration and partnership opportunities.