



Gender Reconciliation International
Healing and transformation between women and men

Announcing Partnership with the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation



Gender Reconciliation International is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation and Stellenbosch University. The purpose of this partnership is to implement Gender Reconciliation (GR) programs and facilitator training to qualified students at Stellenbosch University, located near Cape Town, South Africa. A media launch to announce the partnership was held on August 20 at the Stellenbosch University Tygerberg campus.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu said "We have undermined our humanity by the treatment that we have meted out to women, just as much as racists undermine their humanity by treating others as less than human."

"Gender Reconciliation is the logical next step for our country," said Rev. Mpho Tutu, Executive Director of the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, and daughter of the Tutus. "The work of racial reconciliation will never be complete without the work of gender reconciliation," she said. The media launch led to national television news coverage in South Africa, articles in leading newspapers, and a syndicated article from Reuters that was published widely.



The entire human family lives under the tyranny of a veritable 'gender apartheid'-a structural oppression that afflicts both women and men, irrespective of sexual orientation. Gender injustice is evident in every segment of society-from bedroom to boardroom, from parliament to parish-regardless of race, religion, culture, or class. The process of Gender Reconciliation applies principles of truth and reconciliation to transform gender injustice, and cultivates equal rights and mutual respect, as well as healing and mutual reverence between men and women.

"We are inaugurating and announcing this collaboration with an outstanding group [Gender Reconciliation International] that has done wonders in helping to recover the humanity of women," said Archbishop Tutu. Gender Reconciliation International will conduct introductory GR programs in September and October at the Stellenbosch main campus. From these programs a group of qualified students will be selected to enter a comprehensive training program that runs from January through September, 2014.

"Beginning Gender Reconciliation work here at Stellenbosch is so completely appropriate, given our history and context," said Rev. Mpho Tutu. Professor Russel Botman, Rector of Stellenbosch University, said "If we don't do gender reconciliation, we can't do human reconciliation . . . and then we can't do this Constitution [of the new, post-Apartheid South Africa]. And if we can't do this Constitution, then we have forsaken not only the past, but also the future."



We are humbled and grateful for this opportunity to implement the transformative work of Gender Reconciliation as part of the continuing legacy of Desmond and Leah Tutu, in collaboration with Rev. Mpho Tutu at one of the leading universities in Africa. Gender Reconciliation is needed everywhere, yet exists almost nowhere today. "Our hope is that eventually we will be in all of the universities in South Africa," said Rev. Mpho Tutu.

We extend our deep gratitude to our many friends and supporters, and to the Gender Reconciliation facilitators who have trained with us. Without your commitment and dedicated service, this new chapter for Gender Reconciliation International would not have come about. May this new partnership bring the gift of Gender Reconciliation work more widely to young people across the globe.

Blessings and Peace,
Will and Cynthia



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