



**Gender Equity and Reconciliation
International**

Healing and transformation for women and men



Newsletter August 2019

Gender Equity and Reconciliation International

#WeHealTogether

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!!



**Gender Equity and Reconciliation International Facilitator
Training Graduates 2018-19, United States**



Click to make your donation to Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI). All donations large or small are deeply appreciated.

www.GRworld.org

Upcoming United States GERI Programs:



Ghost Ranch Retreat Center

Abiquiú, NM

Aug 17 - 21

A few open spaces!

[Register today!](#)

Co-Sponsored by Illuman
(Men's rite of passage
organization)

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The Rowe Center

Rowe, MA

Nov 1 - 4

[Register Here!](#)

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Special GERI Training for Pastors, Clergy, & Religious Leaders

Boston, MA

Nov 5 - 7

[Learn More Here!](#)

United States Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI) Professional Immersion Training Module Four, June 2019

Congratulations to our new graduates of the 2018-19 Gender Equity and Reconciliation International Facilitator Training in the United States:

**Alka Arora, Ariel Patano,
Dennis Sturtz, Lora Williams, Michelle Breene,
Myra Kinds, and Stephen Picha.**

Congratulations also to
**Esther Diplock and William Diplock,
Karambu Ringera, and Phil Vivirito**
on their certification as GERI Trainers.



GERI Trainees - United States

Over the past year, this group of dedicated women and men from the United States, Costa Rica, Kenya,

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**GERI
Experiential
Taster
Austin, TX
Sept 28**

Contact
garrett@grworld.org
for more information

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**Want to learn more
about GERI
programs?**

**Join our
Informational
Zoom Meeting**

Contact
garrett@grworld.org
for more information



Donate Today!



Australia, and South Africa ranging from early 20s to late 60s, courageously engaged in both the 'inner' work of self-enquiry, reflection, and contemplative practices - and the 'outer' work of engaged study and praxis to hone their skills to lead the GERI activities and group processes. Blessings and all good wishes to the new graduates as they continue into their internships and serve as apprentices in organizing and co-facilitating GERI workshops and programs.

Deep gratitude to Phil Vivirito, Esther Diplock, William Diplock, Karambu Ringera, Desireé English, Cynthia Brix, and William Keepin for their guidance and mentorship.

Thank you for bringing your hearts, minds and spirits to this work so fully!



Morning Invocation - Fourth US Training Module

(CSGVC)

**GERI Invitational ~ New York City
May 5-7, 2019**

***"A transformative, life-altering experience. No kidding!
It will literally shift the course of your life for the better.
It has shifted mine."***

**~ Mark Greene, author of
The Little #MeToo Book for Men and Executive Editor of The Good Men Project**

Twenty-eight men and women participated in a special invitational GERI program titled "MeToo to WeToo," convened by the United Nations CSGVC in New York City this past May. The participants from six countries - India, Kenya, Nepal, South Korea, United States, and Venezuela - showed up with integrity, compassion, honesty, heartfulness, and a sincere desire for healing and reconciliation.



Men's Honoring Ceremony for the Women

One of the U.N. activists captured the unique power of this gathering for advancing gender equality in the international arena:

My experience of the GERI workshop brought to light how central the role of unity is in advancing the work of gender equality. At the international level, there is an attitude of "fighting" for women's rights, which is important and I am grateful for the gains won by those who have gone before us.

Yet, to push us to the next stage of development, our ends must be coherent with our means. Women and men must come together to design

a new structure, to create a new culture in which all can flourish, and the foundation of this process must be trust and understanding. The GERI workshop created the safe space to hear one another, to strive for insights and compassion, to work on our individual transformation and to commit to building a new gender equal civilization together, in unity. GERI is a unique space, unlike any other I have participated in. A must for anyone committed to the work of gender equality.

-- Saphira Rameshfar, U.N. gender equality activist



Activity at GERI Training for the U.N. CSGVC

Many thanks to the United Nations Committee on Spirituality, Global Values, and Concerns; and to The Mankind Project, the Forum 21 Institute, the Loretto Community at the UN, and the Nathan Cummings Foundation for co-sponsoring this event. Special thanks to Beth Blissman, Ken Kitatani, and Paul Samuelson for their organizational support, and to the Sukyo Mahikari Center for Spiritual Development for providing a beautiful venue free of charge.

"You have opened parts of my heart that I didn't even know were closed."
~ GERI Female Participant

Gratitude to the GERI facilitation team: Phil Vivirito, Alka Arora, Garrett Evans, Myra Kinds, Julien Devereaux, Karambu Ringera, Cynthia Brix, and William Keepin. A special appreciation for support from GERI intern facilitators Stephen Picha and Clay Boykin.

GERI Experiential Taster
Boston, May 23, 2019

"Once folks in our community get to a comfortable place where they can share openly, they could begin to heal generational issues they have carried around for most of their lives."

~ GERI Participant

Women and men, ages 15-70, gathered for a GERI Taster in Boston, organized and co-led by GERI facilitators Myra Kinds and Michele Breene. Participants reached across differences in gender, class, culture, and profession as they shared and listened to each other's gender stories.



Participants sharing what they learned about gender as children

Several participants, noting how rare such spaces have been in their lives, expressed the belief that a safe place for gender healing would benefit their communities greatly by encouraging deep layers of collective and individual trauma to rise to the surface and be healed in a safe group context.

Special thanks to Michele Breene and Myra Kinds, for their excellent organizing of this GERI Taster, and for their commitment to bring the GERI program to the Boston community. Facilitation team also included GERI co-founders Will Keepin and Cynthia Brix.

"I'm so excited! I texted my friends to tell them what I was doing," said one of the younger 20-something male participants. "I want to come to the workshop and bring my friends."

Participants commented on how well the community agreements and other GERI methods facilitated a space in which they felt safe to share their personal experience on the sensitive topics of gender and sexuality.



Participants Visioning a

NEWS from India

GERI in Bangalore, India

Visthar Retreat Center

May 16-18, 2019

*"There was a change in me
when I witnessed that men go through abuse
and other atrocities as well . . .*

it made me unlearn the things that I have been learning for years."

~ GERI Female Participant



Visthar GERI Training Participants

Twenty-one participants from India, France, Zambia, Italy came together to dive into their lives for an Introductory GERI Training, and bring forth their own hidden emotions and challenges relating to gender and sexuality at Visthar Transformational Center in Bangalore, India. Both women and men shared

stories rarely heard in mixed gender groups, including heart-breaking tales of gender and caste-based discrimination, domestic violence, and sexual violation.

"The relief of speaking out my story and being heard was so healing."

~ GERI Male Participant

Deep gratitude to GERI facilitators, Hetal Jobenputra Iyer, Shivaprasad Kumarswamy, Hazel Lobo, and Mangesh Pol for their skillful holding of this group, and for their dedication and commitment toward bringing the GERI work to India.

"I now feel compassion towards the other gender."

~ GERI Female Participant



This GERI Introductory Training was offered as part of the Gender, Diversity and Social Transformation (GDST) course at Visthar in Bangalore, India.

Many thanks to the openness and willingness of the GDST team, namely Mercy Kappen and Roshen Chandran, who beautifully suggested to integrate the GERI Introductory Training as a part of their month-long course.

**GERI Facilitation Team:
Hetal, Mangesh, Hazel, and Shivaprasad**

Special GERI Training for Maher House Mothers

Pune, India

May 16-18, 2019

***"I thought I was alone, and that only I had so many problems,
but now I know I am not alone . . .
There are so many women with me."***

~ Housemother GERI Participant

Broken marriages, domestic violence, child marriage were just a few of the stories shared from the 36 women who participated in this special two-day GERI program for the housemothers at Maher, an interfaith project in India that has established 46 homes for battered and destitute women and children. Maher means "Mother's Home" in the local language of Marathi.

The women who participated in the GERI program originally came to Maher in desperation and despair, often running for their own lives from horrific conditions. After receiving psychological, medical, and spiritual rehabilitation, these courageous women are fully restored to health and now serve as caregivers and housemothers to the Maher children.

"I have never shared my innermost hidden stories with anyone the way I shared here . . . Thank you!"

~ **Housemother GERI Participant**

Many participants commented on the depth of sharing and listening, and the bond of sisterhood that was strengthened between them. *"I feel lighter, so much lighter, after sharing what was in my heart,"* said one participant. Another said, *"After listening to each other's stories and what we have gone through we feel so connected and close..."*



A Sisterhood of Shared Experience for Maher Housemothers



**GERI Facilitators:
Hazel Lobo and Hetal Jobenputra Iyer**

NEWS from Australia

GERI "Down Under"!

Sakyadhita Conference for Buddhist Women Sydney, June 23-28, 2019

A deep bow of gratitude for the invitation to the 2019 Sakyadhita Conference for Women in Buddhism, to offer a Gender Equity and Reconciliation International session near Sydney, Australia. Over 20 participants engaged in the two-hour session and began to explore and share their experience of gender and sexuality, especially where this has intersected their lives as Buddhist practitioners and in their spiritual communities. This short, but powerful session was very well received by those in attendance, and

Gender Equity and Reconciliation Australia (GERA) Brisbane, June 22, 2019

A beautiful GERI~GERA reunion took place, with the familiar faces of those who have experienced the GERI introductory training before, as well as welcoming new friends into the GERA community in Brisbane.



Esther, William, Cynthia, and

we look forward to future presentation both at Sakyadhita and in other Buddhist communities.



Birthday blessings to Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo

Deep gratitude to Sakyadhita President, Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo for the invitation to present, and to the conference organizers for all their excellent support and service.

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Many thanks to GERI Trainers William and Esther Diplock for their fantastic organizing, their commitment to GERI, and their dedication to build the GERI work in Australia. Stay tuned for future Australia workshops and professional training!



Closing Ceremony of Honoring



Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI) has been bringing people, of all sexual orientations, together for healing and reconciliation for 27 years. Our work has been introduced in ten countries to date, and we are currently conducting comprehensive training programs in four countries: United States, Kenya, Colombia, Nepal.

GERI is a project of the Satyana Institute, a non-profit training organization. Satyana Institute relies upon the support of individuals and sponsoring organizations

Any donation, small or large, is gratefully received.

For more information visit:

www.GRworld.org