



**Gender Equity and Reconciliation
International**

Healing and transformation for women and men



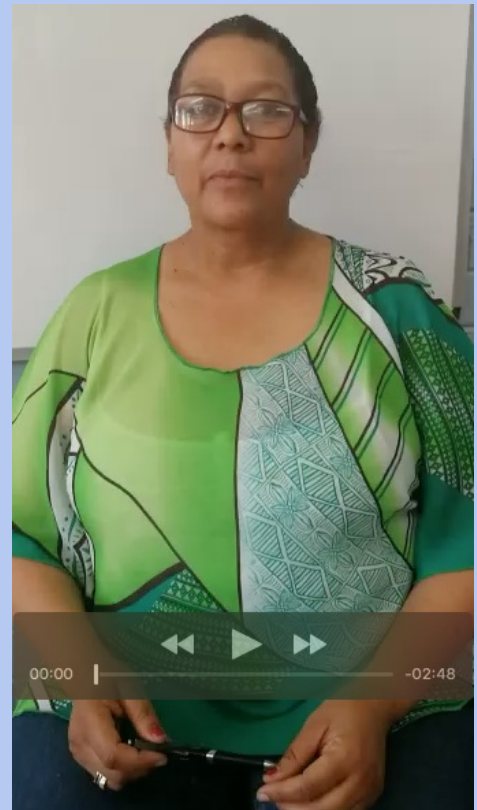
Newsletter December 2018

Gender Equity and Reconciliation International #WeHealTogether

"Dear Men,

I have no words to express my gratitude. My throat is choking up and my tears are rolling. I want to thank you for letting me in to your warm, masculine presence and space. I could hear you. I could feel your pain. It moved me and touched me in all areas of my life...

I can only thank you. I can't even thank you enough, but I'm sending you light and love."



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

www.GRworld.org

A participant shares her experience of GERI workshop, Cape Town, South Africa, November, 2018

Parliament of the World's Religions



Parliament of the World's Religions
Gender Equity and Reconciliation International Exhibit Booth
with Interfaith Colleagues pictured left to right

Rev. Cynthia Brix, Rabbi Daniel Goldman, Pastor Don MacKenzie, Omar Abboud, Sr.
Lucy Kurien, Rabbi Ted Falcon, Imam Jamal Rahman,
Fr. Marco Guillermo, Chaya Pamula, Will Keepin, Alejandro Williams Becker

Transforming Patriarchy in Religion: The Promise of Gender Equity and Reconciliation was the message we brought to the 2018 Parliament of World Religions in Toronto, Canada, Nov. 1-7, 2018.

Over 100 people attended our conference breakout session that included a panel presentation followed by experiential activities that gave attendees a firsthand experience of the Gender Equity and Reconciliation work. One attendee gave a touching testimonial of how moved she was from attending our GERI session, which the Parliament organizers highlighted in their conference summary video below. Click the arrow below to view.



**Parliament of the World Religions Video
highlighting our GERI Session**

Nine expert panelists representing four countries presented during our session. These same panelists (with minor variations) had also given a similar GERI presentation and workshop at an earlier 2015



GERI's Parliament breakout session

Parliament of World Religions in Salt Lake City, which was also well received. We again received enthusiastic responses at the GERI booth and two people immediately enrolled in our yearlong training to become GERI facilitators. This continuity over time strengthens GERI's presence in the world religious communities, where GERI has made an important contribution over the years that continues to expand.

Much gratitude to our Gender Equity and Reconciliation International staff for their amazing and tireless service. And,



(Pictured left to right) GERI friend,
Stefan Howard with GERI staff: Zanele Khumalo,
Alka Arora, Sarah Gardam

heartfelt appreciation to our panelist for their participation and support to Gender Reconciliation International International - Garrett Evans, Zanele Khumalo, Karambu Ringera, Sarah Gardam, Samantha Sinclair, Alka Arora, Jane Calbreath, and Chaya Pamula, Imam Jamal Rahman, Sr. Lucy Kurien.

News from United States and Canada

Upcoming US and Canada Programs:



**Vancouver, BC
February, 2019 (TBA)**

.....

**Spiritual Directors
International
March 14, 2019
Seattle, WA**

.....

United Nations

Liberation from Gender Oppression Rochester, NY

"To witness and honor women's pain, anger, fear, and sadness is powerful and humbling. This workshop process created a space where both/all genders felt safe enough to share from our hearts"

~ Jim Lachman, male participant



**Women's honoring ceremony for the men
Rochester, NY**

**Commission on the
Status of Women
March 15, 2019
New York, NY**
.....

**St. Louis, MO
July 19 - 21, 2019**
.....

**Ghost Ranch
Retreat Center
Abiquiú, NM
August 17 - 21, 2019**

For more information
contact:
Garrett@grworld.org

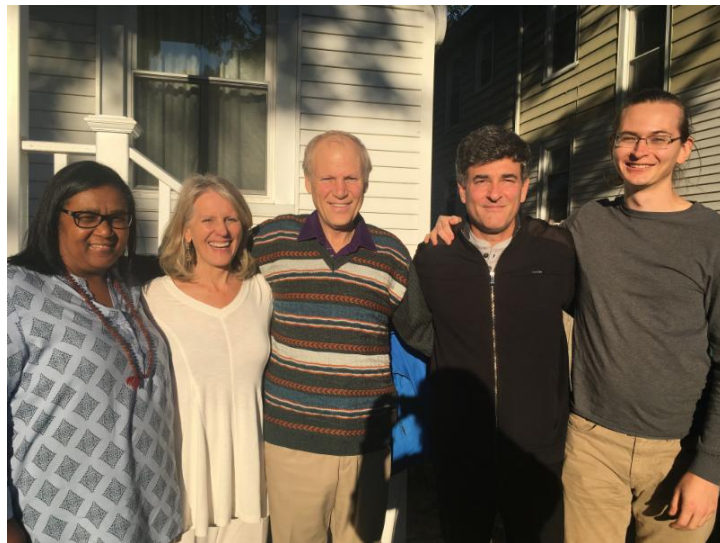


Donate Today!

Rochester, NY hosted a four-day introductory Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI) workshop, Oct 11 - 14, 2018 with a diverse and intergenerational group of 30 participants from early 20s through late 70s. The workshop was co-sponsored by the ManKind Project (MKP) and the Rochester Pachamama Alliance. Special thanks to Kit Miller and everyone at the Gandhi Institute for their invitation and skillful workshop organizing, and to Padme Livingstone and Dwain Wilder for their workshop support.

"The safe, supportive space allowed me to experience healing related to gender issues. I have a renewed sense of hope that co-creating a world filled with love and respect across genders is possible."

~ Female participant



**Gender Equity and Reconciliation International
(GERI) Facilitation Team**

A deep bow of gratitude to GERI's facilitation team for the workshop, (pictured above left to right) Desireé English, Cynthia Brix, William Keepin, Phil Vivirito, and Garrett Evans.

Women and Men: A New Conversation

November 9 - 11, Santa Fe, NM

In November, 22 courageous participants gathered in Santa Fe, NM to unpack the conditioning around gender, undoing generations of traumas and grief, and recovering the Spirit of what it means to be human: Love.

As Facilitator Scott Van Note reflected, "All suspicion cast aside, love could flow freely. It was numinous, luminous, loving and co-creative joyful sharing... And so delightfully sweet and tender. By the end of the Men's and Women's honoring circles, it had begun to snow, blanketing the valley we did our work in."



Santa Fe GERI workshop centerpiece



GERI Facilitation Team (Pictured left to right)

Julien Devereux, Zanele Khumalo, Francesca Bottos, Scott Van Note

Congratulations to Scott Van Note and Francesca Bottos for their long-held vision of bringing GERI to their Santa Fe community, and for their tireless work in organizing this workshop. Gratitude to the GERI facilitation team: Julien Devereux, Zanele Khumalo, Francesca Bottos, and Scott Van Note for their skillful facilitation and service.

**Congratulations to
Phil Vivirito and Desireé Engilsh!**



(Pictured left to right) Cynthia Brix, GERI co-founder, Phil Vivirto, GERI Facilitator, Desireé English, GERI Facilitator, William Keepin, GERI co-founder

Big congratulations to Desireé English and Phil Vivirito on their official certification as GERI facilitators! Both Phil and Desireé are gifted facilitators with extensive experience and a deep love for this work.

Desireé completed her GERI facilitator training in 2016 and served as Operations Officer for GenderWorks, GERI's South African affiliate. She has 25 years of professional experience creating and holding spaces for learning and development for individuals and groups including local government, corporations, and NGOs. She is also an Integrative Trauma Healing practitioner and a certified international trainer of Trauma Release Exercises (TRE).

Phil has been involved with GERI since 2014 and completed his GERI facilitator training in 2017. He has been a facilitator of men's work with the ManKind Project for 13 years. Phil is also a group facilitator for the Witnessing Whiteness program that invites conversation and awareness around racism and white privilege.

Beloved Community



Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI) Trainers and Facilitators -- in a light-hearted moment -- dedicated to healing and transforming gender relationships across cultures, including Australia, India, Kenya, South Africa, United States.

NEWS from India

Maher Ashram



Participants of the GERI workshop in Pune, India

Congratulations to our GERI facilitation team -- Hazel Lobo, Ansar A Sharief, Hetal Jobenputra Iyer, and Mangesh Pol on their fantastic facilitation with 34 young adults, aged 18-26, guiding them through a powerful workshop held at Maher* in Pune, India. This was a terrific all-Indian facilitation team (with an Indian GERI support team that included: Gaus, Poonam, Saiyli, and Soni).



Men's honoring ceremony for the women

This was the first time that these young people had ever shared their stories related to gender injustice and sexual violation in this depth, and in community. Participants after-ward expressed tremendous enthusiasm for this kind of work, and some important personal break-throughs took place for some participants.

Here the men are bowing in full prostration to the women, which they chose to do as part of the men's ceremony to honor the women and the feminine. The women offered a powerful



Men bowing to women

introductory GERI workshop at Maher.

*Maher is a remarkable refuge and interfaith community with 46 homes across India that provide shelter and rehabilitation to destitute women, children, and men; helping them to



Workshop participants in small-group discussion



GERI Facilitation Team (pictured left to right)
Mangesh Pol, Ansar A Sharief,
Hetal Jobenputra Iyer, Hazel Lobo

ceremony to the men as well.

We are deeply grateful to Sr. Lucy Kurien, founder of Maher and her staff for our longtime partnership and deep friendship, and for this new element of collaboration with us at Gender Equity and Reconciliation International to host this

live a simple yet dignified life, irrespective of gender, caste, creed, or religion. Founder Sr. Lucy Kurien was recently named by OOOM Magazine as one of the 100 most inspiring people in the world.

NEWS from Kenya

**Upcoming Kenya
Training:**

**GERI partners with
International Peace Initiatives**



Meru, Kenya ~

GERI Yearlong Immersion and Facilitator Training

(2019 Dates TBA)

**For further
information contact:**

Garrett Evans at
garrett@GRworld.org

Click below to make
your donation to the
Kenya GERI program.
All amounts small and
large are greatly
appreciated and warmly
welcomed.



in Meru, Kenya

International Peace Initiatives (IPI) hosted a powerful and transformative GERI workshop in collaboration with Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI), August 31-September 2. The success of this programme is leading to a full GERI Facilitator Training to begin in 2019.



GERI Participants - Meru, Kenya

Together 38 courageous women and men leaders from Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Tanzania, and Kenya gathered at Tiriji Eco-Centre in Meru, Kenya for this watershed event that sought to transform gender relations and heal the wounds of patriarchal oppression. The diversity of this intergenerational group was enriched by the sharing of their personal stories as they held witness to one another in their pain with compassion, humility and love.

As a
facilitation
team
we were
honoured
to be part
of this
movement
to disrupt
the culture
of silence

that keeps
gender
oppression
in place.

Deep
gratitude
to each
one in the
group for
showing
up so fully.
And thank
you to all
those in
the GERI
community
who

supported

this workshop financially, energetically and
prayerfully. We also extend deep appreciation to
Michele Breene for supporting on so many levels
and to our generous host, Dr. Karambu Ringera for
your tireless efforts and vision for bringing this work
home.



GERI Facilitation Team

Jabu Mashinini, Desireé English,
Karambu Ringera, Zanele Khumalo,
Lesley Thomas

GERI goes to Nepal

Inaugural GERI Workshop forthcoming in Nepal March 8 - 10, 2019

We are grateful to Lok Bhandari for presenting about GERI at the Lions Club of Lord Buddha in Kathmandu. Lok's perseverance has led to the first GERI workshop in Nepal, to be held March 8-10, in Pokhara, Nepal, sponsored by the Lion's Club of Tal Barahi. Many thanks to Basu GC, Chairperson of Lion's Club of Tal Barahi for this invitation to GERI and the ongoing support of organizing this upcoming workshop.

Lok first participated in a



**Lok Bhandari presenting on GERI at the
Lions Clubs of Lord Buddha, Kathmandu Nepal.**

GERI workshop at the Omega Institute, in New York in 2014, and ever since he has been committed to bringing GERI to Nepal. Several GERI facilitators from India will be joining other international GERI facilitators to this watershed workshop. This is a fantastic beginning!

For more information about the workshop and to enroll, contact:

Lok Bhandari at bhandarilok6@gmail.com

or

Basu GC at sunrisepokhara@yahoo.com

NEWS from South Africa

Upcoming South Africa Workshop:



**Cape Town,
South Africa ~**

French Consular GERI Workshop

The GenderWorks, (GERI affiliate in South Africa) facilitation team completed the first in a series of workshops hosted and funded by the French Consulate. We are very enthused about this collaboration, and the first workshop was very well received by the diverse group of 17 participants.

GenderWorks Workshop

In collaboration with
the French Consulate

(Dates TBA)

University of the Western Cape (UWC)

Series of GERI
workshops for
students and faculty
(Dates TBA)

GERI Yearlong Immersion and Facilitator Training

First Module
May 2019

**For further
information contact:**

Garrett Evans at
garrett@GRworld.org

Click below to make
your donation to the
South African GERI
program.

All amounts small and
large are greatly
appreciated and warmly
welcomed.

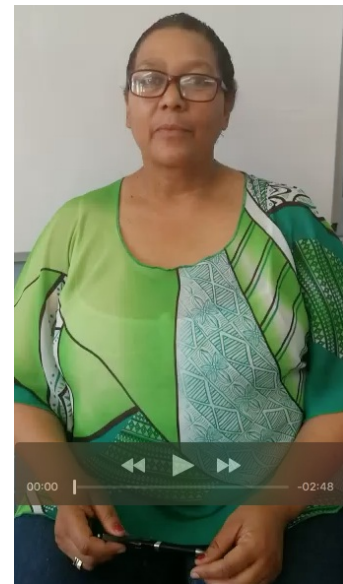


Workshop participants sharing their gender stories

A huge thank you and deep bow to GERI consultant and facilitator Antonia Porter for her dedicated work to establish this collaboration between the French Consulate and GenderWorks in Cape Town. The workshop was linked to an exhibition: *Still Figuring Out What it Means to Be a Man*.

One of the women expressed deep gratitude to the men for their candid sharing about the painful challenges men face in patriarchal society. She realized this applies equally to her own brothers and sons. *"It was a rude awakening to discover that my brothers and my beautiful sons are with me in this room. For the first time I could understand why my brothers fear for relationships. ...*

I can't even thank you enough, but I'm sending you light and love."



Participant Testimony

This
workshop
was
facilitated by
a South



African GERI team - (pictured left to right) Jabu Mashinini, Judy Bekker, Vuyo Koyana, and Xolile Pro Zulani.

GERI/GenderWorks South African Facilitation Team

University of Western Cape Workshop

An intimate group of 12 individuals gathered for a three-day Gender Reconciliation workshop at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in Cape Town, South Africa. In partnership with the Centre for Student Support Services (CSSS) this powerful workshop is the second in a series aimed at transforming gender relations among students on the university campus. This inspiring group showed up



Participants engaged in a playful game together

fully with courage and unflinching honesty as they shared their personal stories and listened deeply to one another to bear witness to their experiences of wounding, pain and suffering from patriarchal gender oppression. We honoured each other in the fullness of our humanity; we danced, we laughed, we cried together. In jointly confronting the visible and invisible acts of gender and sexual violence, we broke the silence and denial so present in our society that keeps oppression in place.

We are deeply grateful for the invitation by the CSSS team led by Laetitia Permalla to introduce this trans-



Participants sharing in full circle

formative work at this important institution of higher learning. Thank you to Zanele Khumalo, Rev. Laurie Gaum, Desireé English, and Xolile Pro Zulani for their skillful facilitation.

Chrysalis Academy

The Chrysalis Academy in partnership with Jazzart Dance Theatre, ran an exciting Dance Leadership Programme for young people from Cape Town. The Dance Leadership Curriculum focuses on using dance as a medium for development, to tell stories and to advocate for change, while building the resilience of young people. Mindfulness, cultivating presence, and community service are key tenets of the programme. The leadership curriculum included a three-day Gender Equity and Reconciliation workshop at the Chrysalis Academy in Tokai.



Women's honoring ceremony for the men



Participants following a guided meditation

The GERI workshop was facilitated by Rev. Laurie Gaum, Vuyo Koyana, Janine Turner, and Tristan Johannes.

Dance students reflected deeply on their journeys as gendered individuals, and used the medium of dance during sessions, and to punctuate the

programme at select times. Facilitators felt grateful to work with this beautiful,

vibrant and talented young group. Deep introspection, sharing, witnessing and healing was evident over the 3 days. All experiences were honoured in the learning process, particularly on the theme of gender fluidity which was a highlight of the workshop.

GERI Presentations

Nazareth College ~ Rochester, NY



**GERI Founders, William Keepin
and Cynthia Brix speaking at
Nazareth College**

We are grateful for the invitation to present to the students and faculty at Nazareth College. It was wonderful to see how all the students so fully engaged in the taste of GERI's experiential activities.

Many thanks to Dr. Muhammad Shafiq, executive director of the Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue (pictured below right), for inviting us to speak, and for his important work to promote constructive interfaith dialogue.

Banyen Books ~ Vancouver, BC



**Cynthia Brix and William Keepin
speaking at Banyen Books**

We thoroughly enjoyed our co-presentation with Sister Lucy Kurien at Banyen Books in Vancouver, BC.

Many thanks to Kolin Lymworth and Lizanne Fisher, owners of Banyen Books for the invitation, and to Janet and Brian Law of Vancouver for their loving support.

The event was well attended - and well received - and GERI is planning to return to Vancouver in early 2019 for a full three-day workshop.



Gift presented to GERRI facilitators by President Dawn Braveman Nazareth College.



Sr. Lucy Kurien speaking about Maher at Bayen Books.



Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI) has been bringing women and men together for healing and reconciliation for 26 years. Our work has been introduced in nine countries to date, and we are currently conducting comprehensive training programs in four countries: United States, South Africa, India, Kenya.

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