



**Gender Equity and Reconciliation
International**
Healing and transformation for women and men



Newsletter September 2018

Men and Women as Allies

Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI)



Participants from #WeToo - People of Color Healing the Gender Wound

"It was such a positive and transforming experience. I feel forever touched and just a sense of my whole being having the capacity to feel on a much deeper level... There are no words to describe my authentic feelings of the experience, it's so amazingly powerful. I just know there is a shift inside of me. I am so grateful for the experience."

- Participant from recent GERI People of Color workshop in Seattle

News from United States

Upcoming US Workshops:



**Rochester, NY ~
October 11-14, 2018**

*In collaboration with the
M.K. Gandhi Institute for
Nonviolence, ManKind
Project, and Pachamama
Alliance of Rochester*

Cost: \$200-\$300

**(Price includes tuition,
materials, and meals during
workshop hours. This is a
non-residential workshop.)**

[Register here](#)

**Santa Fe, NM ~
November 9-11,
2018**

Cost: \$350-\$395

(Price includes tuition,

GERI People of Color Workshop



GERI held an inaugural workshop specifically for People of Color (PoC), entitled *#WeToo: People of Color Healing the Gender Wound*, in Seattle, WA. This workshop brought together an intimate group of 13 dynamic and inspiring people across different ethnicities, nationalities, and cultures.

"It was profound being in People of Color space." reflected one female participant, "Seeing brown hands on both sides of me felt good... I felt safer to bring these things up. It's easier to open my heart to men of color knowing you have been targeted by the isms. "

materials, and meals during workshop hours. This is a non-residential workshop.)

[Register here](#)

Please contact:
Garrett@grworld.org
for more information.



Gender Equity and Reconciliation
International
www.GRworld.org

Attention Frequent Flyers!

GERI is seeking donations of frequent flyer miles, both national and international to assist in bringing international gender activists and facilitators from developing countries into GERI's professional training program.

To donate miles, please contact Garrett at



Together the group delved deeply into stories of challenge, pain and personal wounding from gender oppression, racism, and white supremacy - courageously opening their hearts and listening deeply to one other with compassion and love. The sacred space was both healing and liberating, reigniting the spirit of Ubuntu and mutual harmony that lies at the spiritual heart of humanity.

"[The workshop] was a seed for a great tree of life love and hope," reflected another participant.



A deep bow of gratitude to GERI's international team of facilitators and trainees: Zanele Khumalo, John Tsungme Guy, Karambu Ringera, Alka Arora, Ladale Benson, and Miik Wells.

Women of Wisdom (WoW) & ManKind Project (MKP) Workshop

GERI was delighted to offer a one-day workshop, June 9th in Seattle, WA for the fifth consecutive year for the Women of Wisdom Foundation and the Mankind Project. The participants all spoke of their desire to engage and understand more across the gender divide. The GERI facilitators were: Zanele Khumalo (South Africa) and William Diplock (Australia) and GERI interns Sarah Gardam (USA) and Garrett Evans (USA).

GERI in Costa Rica!

GERI Makes the Sunday News Headlines!

GERI delivered a series of presentations at Universidad Latina, the Autonomous University of Central America, and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. GERI Founders William Keepin and Cynthia Brix were interviewed by Manuel Sancho of *CR Hoy* (Costa Rica Today) about the Gender Equity and Reconciliation process and the importance of bringing women and men together.



CRHOY.COM

Luchan contra la violencia de género mediante la reconciliación entre hombres y mujeres | Crhoy.com

See video [here](#)

See the full *CRHoy* article [here](#) (in Spanish) English translation available [here](#).

Deep gratitude to Silvia Araya for inviting GERI to Costa Rica and for her exceptional work in arranging these presentations and interview. All three organizations have invited GERI back and are eager to offer more GERI programs.

The first GERI introductory workshop in Costa Rica is scheduled for March, 2019.

Please contact Silvia Araya at sylvia_cr@hotmail.com for more information.

Presentations

***"Costa Rica has no military,
but there is a war happening in nearly every household."***

~ Dr. Ligia Porras, Director of Psychology Department,
Universidad Latina de Costa Rica

Universidad Latina

**Autonomous
University of Central
America**

**Inter-American
Institute for
Cooperation on
Agriculture (IICA)**



We are grateful to have been able to present to the students and faculty at the Universidad Latina de Costa Rica. It was wonderful to see how all the students so fully engaged in the taste of GERI's experiential activities. Many thanks to Dra. Ligia Porras, Director of Psychology Department, for inviting us to present and her commitment to gender justice.



GERI very much enjoyed our presentation at the Autonomous University of Central America (UACA), and was met with a very positive reception from students and faculty alike. Deep thanks to Dra. Dora Celis for her coordination and heartfelt participation.



Thank you very much to Johana Rodríguez, IICA Specialist in Sustainable Rural Development, for her invitation and warm welcome to GERI.

See the IICA press release [here](#) (English) or [here](#) (Spanish)



NEWS from South Africa

Upcoming South Africa Workshop:

***Grail Centre
Training for Transformation Workshop***



Cape Town, South Africa ~ 26 - 28 October

*In collaboration with
#JustMen*

Cost: The cost is R1000 (with a minimum donation of R500).

For bookings and more information contact Rob McLeod at genderworks@iafrica.com

Also visit GRWorld.org

For more information about the #JustMen challenge, see [here](#)



Twenty-eight women and men from seven countries - Tanzania, Indonesia, India, Sudan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and South Africa - gathered for a four-day introductory Gender Equity and Reconciliation workshop at the Grail Centre in Kleinmond, South Africa. This is the fifth consecutive year that GERI has offered the workshop at the Grail Centre. This workshop formed one of several programmes the group will undergo for the Training for Transformation (TfT) programme they are enrolled in; a programme that seeks to nurture and grow a new generation of leaders in development who are self-motivated and whose thinking and practice is grounded in communities' realities.



We are grateful for the skillful facilitation by Robert McLeod, Desireé English, Vuyo Koyana, and Xolile Pro Zulani as these courageous individuals plumb the depths of the gender wound that is evident across the different cultures, faiths, ethnicities and nationalities that have convened at Grail Centre Kleinmond.

Cape Town, South Africa Public Workshop



"Ten female and five male participants entered as strangers and emerged as friends, deeply connected. Where there was despair before, there was courage afterwards. Where there were no words to speak before, there was language and voice afterwards. And immense excitement and joy for the healing and reconciliation. Some participants shared, 'I feel hopeful and courageous about life' and 'I

finally felt that my voice was heard.'" ~ GERI facilitator Desiree English

Participants reported that being held with care and sensitivity by the facilitators, Les Thomas, Desiree English, Xolile Pro Zulani and Lucille Meyer, allowed for the creation of emotional intimacy, a rare gift and experience in life as they know it. Each participant reported that the process of truth-telling was the most impactful and liberating experience of the workshop. As one participant said, *"The truth mandala was mind-blowing!"*

University of Western Cape Workshop

A group of 32 student leaders - comprised of both undergraduate and graduate students from across Africa - attended this GERI workshop. This was the first of a series of 12 workshops over the next three years. This expansive contract is fully funded by the University itself, and was negotiated by Zanele Khumalo and Judy Bekker of GenderWorks, in collaboration with a highly engaged champion of GERI work in the university's Student Affairs department.



As GenderWorks lead facilitator Rob McLeod reported, *"We danced and sang together, wept and meditated, laughed and listened as our full hearts unpacked stories of horrific abuse, tough upbringing, substance abuse, absent parents ... as well as transcending and reconciling love. It was an honour once more to facilitate this transformative healing work in a region rife with gender injustice. To behold this workshop process unfolding its magic [was] an undeniable inspiration."*

GERI Around the World

Presentation at Non-Violent Communication Conference

South African GERI facilitator Sarah Dekker presented at the Center for Non-Violent Communications: LEE LAB Belgium 2018 conference. There was much enthusiasm with participants appreciating the experience as one of the highlights of the training week. Sarah presented about GERI, shared her personal story, and facilitated two GERI experiential activities. Participants felt incredibly moved and it sparked much interest and a desire for more.



One Korean woman who attended has formed a book club with several colleagues, reading *Divine Duality* and translating it from English into Korean. They are keen to explore the possibility of organizing a workshop in South Korea.

She writes, "How good it would be to be a witness as it is instead of fighting how much we suffered against each other! How good it would be if we could be healed together with each other! I am deeply grateful to Sarah Vinikkan for introducing this hope to me two months ago in Belgium. The preparatory meeting in Korea started yesterday. This group starts and expects a flower day. The wave has already begun!"



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

