

# Gender Equity & Reconciliation International (GERI)

## Annual Report 2022

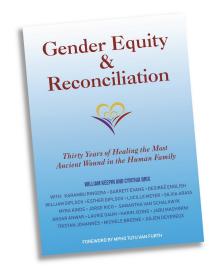


This year of 2022 has been truly remarkable for Gender Equity and Reconciliation International (GERI). The year was marked by several unprecedented milestones:

• The <u>GERI Summit conference</u> was a watershed event for us, held at Omega Institute in New York, October 2 - 7, 2022, with a simultaneous parallel conference in South Africa, and other concurrent events and workshops in several of the

GERI regions.

• Our long-awaited new book—documenting thirty years of inspiring GERI work—was published in October, entitled Gender Equity and Reconciliation: Thirty Years of Healing the Most Ancient Wound in the Human Family.





Co-Authors of the new GERI book, published in October, 2022

These inspiring developments coupled with our dozens of courses and trainings this year have been instrumental in advancing our mission. For a complete list of our 2022 programs, click below.

### **GERI Programs 2022**

The mission of GERI is to "transform gender injustice, and establish beloved community"—in societies, institutions, and communities, large and small—on six continents across the globe.

This is admittedly an audacious mission, yet 30 years of work in 18 countries has convinced us that the GERI approach of collective alchemical transformation in community offers a unique and remarkably effective methodology for radical transformation of gender injustice in human societies.

People everywhere across the globe are aching for this liberating transformation, and the forces of gender oppression and conditioning that hold it back simply cannot withstand the skillful application of the twin forces of truth and love. Our conviction is that the 'GERI revolution' is just now beginning to go to scale at a whole new level.

#### **Key Milestones of 2022**

New book

A collaborative effort of 20 co-authors spanning ten countries, our new book documents the GERI program over the past 30 years, and is full of inspiring stories from people across the globe

who have experienced the transformative power of GERI work. The first edition of this book was translated into Korean, and published in November in Seoul, Korea.

#### GERI Summit conference



A five-day gathering with friends and colleagues from across the globe, this conference honored the accomplishments of GERI over the past 30 years, and welcomed in the next 30 years. It was a rich and inspiring exploration with 52 diverse speakers and leaders sharing their unique insights on gender healing, reconciliation, spirituality, and sexuality.

This year we convened dozens of online courses and in-person workshops, where hundreds of people were able to dive deeply into their own gendered experiences, unveil their hearts to one another, release personal and collective wounds, and begin to jointly heal and re-discover the foundational oneness of our human family. As one South African woman participant recently reflected after hearing the men's deep sharing in the truth forum, "*This has been the most profound experience of Ubuntu*." (I am because you are).

Another highlight
this year was that
GERI International
Program Officer
Garrett Evans was
invited to address
the South African
National Men's
Parliament. Garrett
delivered a moving
presentation on
November 21 in
the national



Garrett Evans presents at the South Africa National Men's Parliament

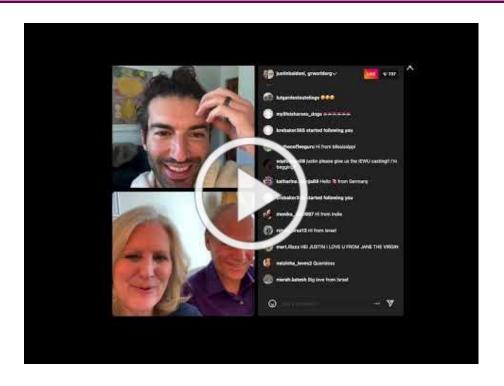
Parliament buildings in Cape Town, with over 100 men attending in person and several hundred more online. Garrett's introduction of the GERI program was warmly received with great interest, and created valuable new connections within the South African government, and led to invitations

for further dialogue in 2023. See the inspiring video of <u>Garrett's parliamentary presentation</u>.

As we close out 2022 and welcome in the new year, we warmly welcome you to read this report and join us in this inspiring time of rapid growth. Become part of this engaging transmutation of gender-based violence and oppression—into heart-based healing and awe-inspiring networks of beloved communities across the planet.

We also extend our deep gratitude to everyone who has supported the GERI work and its global community. What a profound privilege it is to collaborate with such wonderful friends and supporters on this inspiring mission.

With blessings, Cynthia Brix and William Keepin, GERI Co-Founders



### **USA** and Canada

What a joy to be back in-person this year in North America, first presenting at the Bioneers conference in May, and then for our GERI Summit at Omega Institute in October. Earlier we sent out a summary of



GERI Workshop on Vashon Island, WA

the conference, which you can see here:

#### **GERI Summit Summary**

Finally, we convened a workshop on <u>Vashon</u> <u>Island for a special invitational program with</u> <u>Journeymen Institute in December</u>.

All while continuing to convene intimate virtual spaces for hundreds of new people from North America and around the world to enter into a safe space together for heartfelt truth-telling, acknowledgment, and honoring of one another. Our GERI Heart Circle follow-up groups have also continued where participants deepen into conversations around gender and sexuality. One

online GERI Heart Circle has been going strong for two years now meeting every two weeks.

If you've attended a GERI workshop or online course, we welcome you into a Heart Circle. Contact Garrett at Garrett@GRworld.org for how to join.





**GERI at Bioneers** 

**GERI Workshop on Vashon** Island, WA

We also continued our collaborations with key partners in the ManKind Project, Illuman, Bioneers, the Charter for Compassion, Chrysalis Academy, SheTek (women in technology), and many others who co-sponsored our GERI Summit in October.

























## **South Africa**

The insights I have gained over this 7-week course are nothing short of miraculous for me. With a lifetime of anger and even combustible rage at the constant barrage of patriarchy I have experienced, this course has allowed me breathing space to start trusting that change is



GERI workshop at Chrysalis Academy, South Africa

possible, and even within my lifetime. I shared this online space with men and women of courage who were not afraid to be vulnerable, and not afraid to listen or to be heard. Thank you, GERI, for this transformational journey of love, compassion and empowerment.

#### - Ananda Fuchs, South Africa



**GERI Summit Celebration in South Africa** 

The year started off with excitement and much anticipation for the expansion and growth of the GERI work in southern Africa and the rest of the African continent. Ever mindful of the spirit of ubuntu, the intentions that vibrated alongside this excitement focused on creating more awareness

of the GERI programme, increasing visibility and presence in our in-person workshops, highlighting greater voice on social media platforms, and formalising partnerships for collaboration in the shared vision of a gender-healed society. Genderworks, the South African non-profit affiliate partner of GERI, implemented extensive networking and the parallel summit conference, and was also served by a dedicated team of volunteers, all of whom are GERI trained facilitators, facilitator interns, and some serving the global GERI work as trainers and senior trainers.



GERI research collaborator Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela of Stellenbosch University with co-researcher Dr. Samantha van Schalkwyk and GERI Co-Authors Desireé English and Laurie Gaum

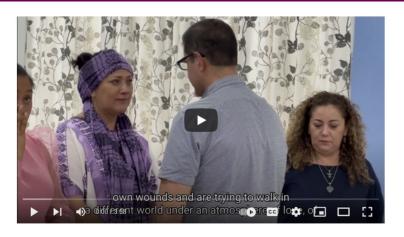
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**South Africa GERI 2022** 

# GERI Español Latin America and Spain

"Listening to the men and their stories helped me see their inner child and their wounds. This helped me to



**GERI Mexico 2022** 

forgive and have hope that people can see and make a paradigm shift.

I had lost faith in the male gender and its capacity for acceptance and change.

Today is different."

#### ~ Woman Participant

This has been a special year for the GERI Spanish project centered in Latin America and Spain, with



**GERI in Latin America and Spain -- 2022** 

the team completing two in-person workshops, two full online courses, and many more introductory sessions, interviews, and community events.

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GERI Workshop in Valencia, Spain

## **Update from**

# GERI Australia

Next AU workshop in May 2023



**Australia GERI 2022** 

# GERI LGBTQ+ Healing Across the Gender Spectrum

"A deep dive! Having done so many courses around sexuality and spirituality, this course was deeply healing. A space for LGBTQ+ and allies to dive deeply, in safety. . .

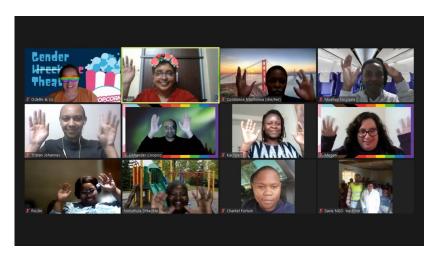
For the first time in my entire lifespan, I was able to engage with a part of myself that I didn't fully recognize as closeted. . . . Healing a deep part of who I am and allowing me to love fully, all of me. For that I am forever filled with gratitude. . . "

~ Jacqueline Tamri, South Africa

GERI launched the online LGBTQ+ Healing Across the Gender



Spectrum course in February, 2022. This is a special program of GERI that invites people of all sexes, gender identities and expressions and sexual orientations into an intimate space of reflection, truth telling and storytelling around issues of gender and sexuality.



Over the past year, we have convened two LGBTQ+ specialized 7-week

online courses, conducted introductory sessions for close to 70 registrants across four continents, and continued to build and implement programs for healing between queer and straight believers in affirming South African churches.

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# GERI BIPOC Healing in Community

GERI BIPOC continues to thoughtfully support and build intentional space for people who identify as either Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). We recognize that the acronym BIPOC is primarily a North American term, and as we introduce this term and build this space, we do so with an open invitation to those who wish to gather in a setting with participants who may find common ground through lived gender experience coupled with the intersections of living in the body as a member of the BIPOC community.

As one participant expressed her reflections from a 90-minute introductory GERI BIPOC program:

"There are so many aspects of our culture and the various ways each of us were raised in our families and within our communities. Each individual's experience differs but there remains a thread within the BIPOC community that once exposed, unravels the scars around our deepest wounds, some of which we had no idea were present and in need of tending.

The BIPOC GERI Intro I attended allowed for the exploration of those wounds and held the space and techniques to recognize and address the work that needs to be done to break the embedded cycles that pains us individually and as a community."

~ Woman GERI BIPOC Participant

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## Kenya and Egypt

This has been a powerful year in the Nile Basin region for GERI, with a four-day inperson workshop in Nairobi, Kenya in February with the Tiriji Foundation, as well as our inaugural in-person workshop in Egypt in collaboration with Nile Journeys.



Men honoring women in Aswan, Egypt

"While I immensely appreciated the whole retreat, the last day warmed my heart and healed my pain of many years. Each man committed to honor, guard, and respect every woman. This was the first time that myself and other women had been honored for being 'women'.



Visions for a Gender Healed World in Nairobi, Kenya

Two men,

- apologized for all injustices that men had unleashed on me, and all women;
- asked me to be the guardian and custodian of his promise to protect women.

One bore the name of my brother, the other the name of my son.

This wiped my heart clean of previous wrongs my brother and son had done to me. I realized it's my responsibility to influence my brother and son on the importance of respect for oneself and humanity."

~Woman GERI Participant, Nairobi, Kenya

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### **GERI India**

"It was really inspirational for me to share my own story. I was just blown away the way the way the workshop has been conducted. It was a transformation within me. I also want to become facilitator like the GERI team"

"It was an eye opener for me to listen to my own friends stories which I have never been heard so far, for so many years. I am deep respectful of my friends who trusted and shared the stories".

~ GERI India

#### ~ GERI India Participant

#### **Participant**



Celebratory moment in GERI workshop for young adults at SOFKIN in Hyderabad, India

We were so pleased to continue expanding the GERI work in India this year - especially with young people - with one full online course with 25 young people, another three-day in-person workshop with 25 young people in Hyderabad with Support Organization for Kids in Need (SOFKIN).

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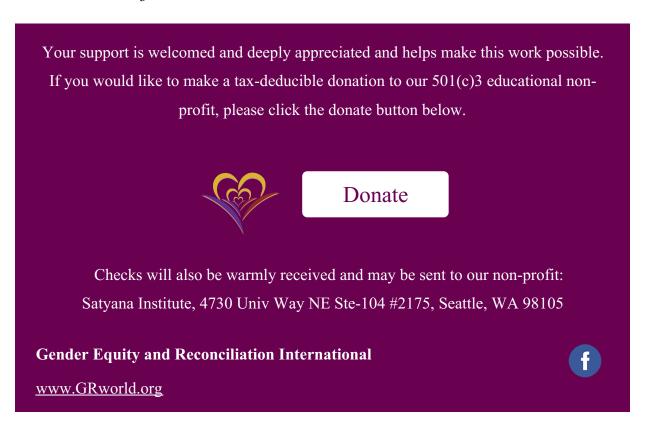
## 2022 Finances

GERI is funded through charitable gifts from individual donors, foundation and grant awards, and earned revenue from training and program

tuition. To see a summary of our 2022 finances, click here.

It has been a privilege to share with you some of the highlights of this past year from our different regions and projects.

May this work continue to flourish and expand to touch the hearts of many more people in all corners of the world. . .



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