



**Gender Equity and Reconciliation  
International**

*Healing and transformation for women and men*



Autumn Newsletter 2017

## Exciting Events | Gender Equity and Reconciliation Around the World Autumn 2017



Participants from Bonteheuwel Township, South Africa in GERI workshop

*"The women were speechless. The men were totally blown away. It was so tangible and palpable-the healing and love. ... For them, these three days were an oasis, heaven on earth ... Words seem inadequate to describe the energy in the room, and everyone's reaction."*

- Zanele Khumalo, senior GERI trainer, reporting on recent GERI workshop in Bonteheuwel Township, South Africa

*Read below for one woman's beautiful personal reflection written after a recent Gender Equity and Reconciliation workshop:*

"My identity as a woman was enriched profoundly by the power of the work we did. Sharing our stories of how the history of patriarchy had affected every woman in the room, drew me into those women's hearts so that I felt our deep connection and was changed by the empathic feelings aroused.

And of equal importance was the heart softening effect on me from the work the men willingly did during our time together. The openness they brought to their participation, and indeed the many ways they displayed their vulnerability and empathy for one another and us women opened my heart in ways I had rarely experienced with a man.

I find I am seeing all men with a wider, kinder heart than I ever have previously. I believe there was much healing for all of us present."

- Padme Livingstone, woman participant, Rowe, MA, March 2017

[www.GRworld.org](http://www.GRworld.org)

### *Upcoming Workshop!*

Join us December 1-3, 2017

\_Gender Equity & Reconciliation Workshop  
North of Seattle, WA

*Register today!*

Donate

## Congratulations to Our 2017 GERI Graduates!



With great excitement, we are pleased to announce the graduates of the 2016-2017 Gender Equity and Reconciliation Trainings in India, United States, and South Africa. Our blessings and encouragement also to those participants who are still in training with the intention to complete it. Throughout the year, these inspiring women and men of different sexual orientations, aged 23 to 70 years, 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 as they continue into their internships and serve as apprentices in organizing and co-facilitating GERI workshops and programs.

### Congratulations to graduates:

#### India:

Hetal Jobenputra, Margaret Gonsalves, Chandrika D., Mahesh Andani, Nandish Annayappa, Manja Devendra, Ravi Kaaka, Nazima Khanum, Shivaprasad Kumarswamy, Vijaya Lakshmi, Hazel Lobo, Ranjith M, Priyanka Pal, Ansar Anwar Pasha, Monisha Singh, Kavya Subramani, Sukanya G.V Sukanya

#### United States:

Garrett Evans, Patrick Fischer, Sarah Gardam, Marie Krebs, Samantha Sinclair, Shanee Stepakoff, Scott Van Note, Phil Vivirito

#### South Africa:

Siri Barker, Paul Barker, Fiona Brophy, Kenna Cormie, Lucille Greeff, Tristan Johannes, Vuyo Koyana, Selina Palm, Yasmeen Rubidge, Janine Turner, Undine Whande

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

GERI Trainers: Judy Bekker, Julien Devereux, Zanele Khumalo, Rob McLeod, John Tsungme Guy, Laurie Gaum, Cynthia Brix, and Will Keepin

*If you're interested in applying for next year's facilitator training programs, to begin summer 2018, please email Garrett at [Training@grworld.org](mailto:Training@grworld.org) for more information.*

## HIGHLIGHTS from GERI in United States

### Upcoming US Workshop:



## Seattle, WA ~ December 1-3

Workshop begins 10:00 am on Friday, December 1, and ends 5:00 pm on Sunday, December 3.

### Location:

Workshop is held in a beautiful private setting in the foothills of the Cascades, 45 minutes north of Seattle.

### Cost:

Early Bird (by Nov. 1):  
\$280(dorm) or  
\$310 (double room)

After Nov. 1: \$355 - \$385

*Register Today!*

Please contact:  
[Garrett@grworld.org](mailto:Garrett@grworld.org)  
for more information.



Gender Equity and Reconciliation  
International  
[www.GRworld.org](http://www.GRworld.org)



Courageous women and men gathered near St. Louis, MO, September 15-17 to jointly confront and unravel gender conditioning and so begin to discover what it means to live in beloved community.



*"[I experienced] a re-unification with men. I did not realize that I felt that they were somewhat evil before and that I needed to guard myself. Now I see them as multifaceted and very worthy of connecting with and being sensitive towards."*

*"The reason I came here was due to a complete isolation I have with women... [I experienced] a deep connection with women... a kindred spirit."  
~ Jerry Canfield, Male Participant*



## HIGHLIGHTS from GERI in India

### GERI Interns in the Field:

#### Bangalore GERI Program for Educators



A half-day GERI program for 28 educators in Bangalore was facilitated by Shivaprasad Kumarswamy, a new graduate of the GERI India training.

*"I was happy leading this workshop, and at the same time I realized, this work requires me to surrender into to spiritual practice and have a strong heart to witness and be able to hold each one of the participants in the work!"*

#### Maher Youth Camp



Two trainees from the GERI India training, Gaus Sayyad and Mangesh Pol, facilitated a GERI program at Maher's summer youth camp for 103 young participants, ages 16 to 18.

The participants learned walking meditation, shared their gender stories and visions for a gender healed and balanced world, and honored each other through ceremony.



GERI community workshop held in Bonteheuwel (Cape Town) received coverage in the local Athlone News!

## Upcoming South Africa Workshops:



Gender Equity and Reconciliation Introductory Taster: Gate House

In one of its most significant accomplishments to date, one of GERI's South African affiliates, GenderWorks, launched a coordinated program in late 2016 to conduct a series of GERI workshops in several township communities in the Cape Town region, and some near Johannesburg. Several of these workshops are summarized below.

- Introductory Gender Equity and Reconciliation workshop for Christian youth leaders, Hermanus, Western Cape, June 26-28, 2017.

This three-day workshop was held for a dynamic group of 19 young leaders from the Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Programme (VYLTP) at Volmoed, Hermanus.

**Date:**  
17 October 2017  
**Time:**  
08h30 - 16h30

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## Gender Equity and Reconciliation Introductory Workshop for Public

**Date:**  
10 - 12 November  
2017  
**Time:**  
08h30 - 16h30

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For further  
information and to  
enroll, please  
contact:

Zanele Khumalo at  
Zanele@grworld.org  
or SMS to: 73 505  
1380

**NOTE:** You must  
register before  
workshop date to  
attend.

As GenderWorks lead facilitator Zanele Khumalo texted back after the second day of the workshop, "The need for this work is HUGE!! The stories! The pain! The courage! The depth...! And they're only about 22 years old."

The workshop was a watershed event for these young adults, who had never experienced such a forum before, in which they could bring forth their stories and be truly heard in a safe, non-judgmental space.

- Another GERI workshop for youth of Khayelitsha township, Philippi, Cape Town was held June 14-16, 2017, and had a similar impact.

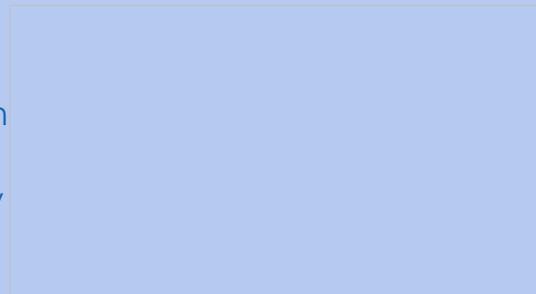


*"I experienced acceptance, love and inner peace. I was able to share my story to different people. For so long I wasn't able to open up and be me, to share my past life..." ~ woman participant*

*"I didn't know that to insult women is abuse, but now I know that, because we are the same." ~ male participant*

- The second of the GERI community workshops was held in Bonteheuwel, Cape Town August 14-16.

This wonderful group of 19 women and men gathered together to jointly confront gender injustice in their community with compassion, courage and love. Through the Gender Equity and Reconciliation process, this courageous group spoke their truth, shared their pain and fears as a community and as



individuals. The safe space created during the three days allowed us to witness and deeply listen to one another as we spoke from our hearts what we rarely share out loud. The workshop was process of healing. We discovered that a gender-healed world - where there is mutual respect and transformed relations between women and men - is possible.

This series of workshops will continue in other township communities in the Western Cape region.

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## An enthusiastic welcome to new GERI Staff and Intern Garrett Evans and De Anna Le Pree



Garrett Evans

**Garrett Evans** joined GERI as Associate Program Officer in August. He received his B.S. in conflict resolution from Portland State University and is a graduate of GERI's 2016-17 professional immersion training. He is a former AmeriCorps VISTA member where he worked in community mediation and restorative practices with youth. He began practicing in the Zen Buddhist tradition in 2011, and has since maintained a daily practice of meditation and silent prayer. He discovered Satyana Institute's work in 2014 and was deeply moved by the Gender Equity and Reconciliation project. Garrett also shares a love for the world's contemplative traditions, and particularly through GERI's work, feels called to bring together his contemplative practice with healing work in the world.



De Anna Le Pree

De Anna Le Pree, MA,CMT started as an intern for GERI in 2016 and now works as a Communications Officer, focused on social media. She received her Master's degree in Gender and Peace Building from the U.N. Mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica. She also holds a B.S. in Public Health from the University of South Florida. De Anna is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer where she served in the Kyrgyz Republic as a Health Volunteer from 2013-2015. She feels that GERI is unique to the gender field that frequently represents one voice and one fight for justice; whereas GERI encompasses all voices and strives for collective healing.

## NEWS from United Kingdom and Australia

### Upcoming Australia Workshops



Brisbane,  
QLD, Australia  
~ Saturday,  
April 21, 2018

Brisbane,  
QLD, Australia  
~ June 22-24,  
2018

For more

Our second GERI workshop was held in London, June 15-17, 2017-organized in collaboration with Natalie Collins, founder of SPARK, an anti-gender-based violence agency. Eighteen participants from local NGOs and religious organizations joined the workshop.



*" The workshop provided a safe space to be vulnerable and to be challenged. I feel heard. I feel seen. I feel valued."*  
~ male participant

Congratulations to dedicated Australian GERI facilitators, William and Esther Diplock, for another successful workshop and several tasters in Brisbane over the past several months.

information,  
please contact  
GERI -  
Australia co-  
ordinators  
[Esther](#) and  
[William](#)  
Diplock.

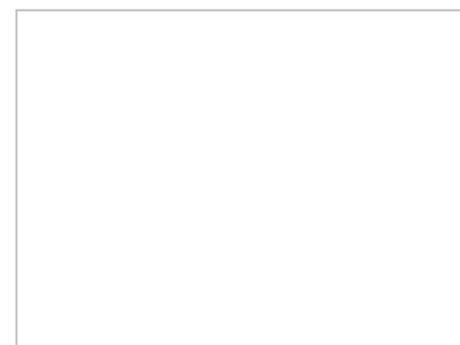
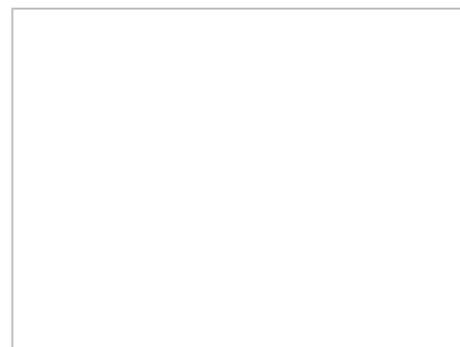
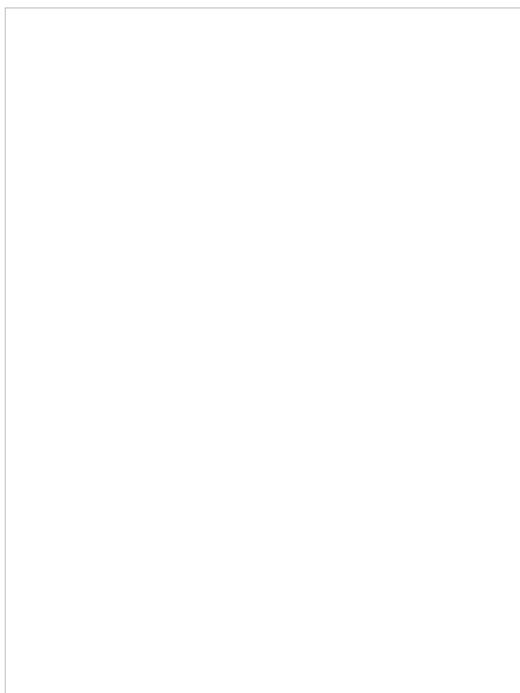
*"I have rarely been  
a witness to men's  
grief and shame."  
~ female  
participant*



## UPDATE:

### GERI at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) March 22, 2017

Zanele Khumalo, GERI trainer, and Chaya Pamula, GERI board member, collaborated in a presentation at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), NGO parallel event, March 22, 2017. This was GERI's third consecutive year presenting our work at the UNCSW, and the session was titled "Breakthrough in Engaging Men as Allies for Women's/Girls' Rights" - showcasing the success of the GERI methodology for bringing men and women together in skillful collaboration for gender equality. The session was attended by a small but enthusiastic group of 15 conference delegates, and served to continue building the GERI presence in the international community.



Delegates who attended the session got to experience the process and were grateful for the opportunity to interact and connect with each other as part of the experiential session.



For more information visit:  
[www.GRworld.org](http://www.GRworld.org)