



Gender Equity & Reconciliation International (GERI)  
*Transforming gender injustice & establishing beloved community*

## GERI Newsletter

### *February, 2025*



*GERI new graduates, (from left to right) Leila-Scott Price (US), Fabrizio Paluzzi (Italy), Ignacio Falcón (Argentina), Carollyne Conlinn (Canada)*

Dear GERI Friends,

Welcome to our new monthly newsletter!

Each edition will highlight recent developments, transformative stories, and the expanding impact of the GERI community across the globe. We're excited to share these monthly updates to report on and support our growing beloved community.

Some highlights from the past few months:

- **New Program! Second Saturday Circles (Monthly)**
- **Welcoming new GERI Program Officer, Kara Salter**
- **Honoring Dr. Konyka Dunson's Groundbreaking Research on GERI**
- **Rejoicing in the GERI Gala**
- **Chrysalis Academy: Nurturing Youth and Transforming Families - South Africa**
- **Planting Seeds of Healing: GERI Programs in Kenya**
- **Recent Online Intro Sessions - India, US, Australia**

## New Program: Second Saturday Circles GERI Monthly Gathering Online

Our inaugural Second Saturday Circle for the GERI alumni was launched on Saturday, February 8!

During our time together, we experienced the safe and sacred connections among us. Through deep listening and heartfelt reflection, we created a space rooted in respect, compassion, and authenticity.



*Video clip from February's gathering*

We're excited to continue this journey together! We hope you'll join us as we deepen our conversations and weave the threads of our beloved community together.

Join us for our next Second Saturday Circle on March 8th— [9 am Pacific](#) on Zoom!

Register here! [Second Saturday Circles](#)

## Welcoming Kara Salter to the GERI Staff!

We are delighted to welcome Kara Salter to the GERI staff as our newest GERI Program Officer.

**Kara Salter, PhD** is a researcher and anthropologist based in Perth, Western Australia. Kara's engagement with GERI goes back to 2009, when she was completing her dissertation on interpersonal dynamics in intentional communities. She recently completed her yearlong GERI Facilitator Training. Kara will be helping to administrate GERI programs globally, as well as organizing local GERI programs in Perth, Australia, where she lives with her husband, Jonathan, and their two young children, James and Arwen.



Groundbreaking Academic Research  
on the GERI methodology:

We celebrate and congratulate Dr. Konyka Dunson on the recent completion of her PhD dissertation at the University of the District of Columbia, in Washington, D.C.

Dunson's research explores GERI's methodology as a means to address gender-based conflict, violence, and inequality—by engaging women and men in transformative dialogue. She found that gender inequality is deeply rooted in social norms, and that open dialogue can expose and challenge these norms, leading to personal and social transformative change.



Dunson conducted extensive interviews with four participants in the GERI process. Her research revealed that gender reconciliation fosters deep awareness of unconscious biases and assumptions. All four participants valued the experience of truth-telling, empathic listening, and witnessing the impact of gender norms on themselves and others during the GERI process. This led to lasting change, deeper commitment to gender equity, improved communication, and it also inspired further conversations on gender in their communities.

Dunson's research suggests that gender equity begins with recognizing the impact of gender norms, thereby fostering deep awareness of unconscious biases and assumptions, which in turn enables authentic compassionate dialogue on foundational gender issues. Her study showed that "*Gender reconciliation left a lasting impact: the women and men forged a commitment to gender equity, developed enhanced communication skills, and initiated conversations embracing gender equity in their communities.*"

Dunson's research conclusions are:

*The findings document significant personal transformation as participants encountered their beliefs around gender and experienced changed mindsets. ... The study suggests that gender reconciliation [GERI] provides a viable tool to uproot problematic gender-based constructs and shift social dynamics toward greater gender equity.*

*"For the global work to eradicate gender inequality, gender reconciliation dialogue [GERI] offers a strategy to disrupt harmful social norms and engage women and men to create new pathways for social progress."*

Dunson published two research papers on her research, which can be viewed here:

[Closing the Gender Gap: Women and Men Creating Social Change](#)

## Rejoicing in the GERI Gala

If you haven't seen it yet, check out the highlights from our 2024 GERI Gala, held online on December 14! This inspiring gathering brought together over 130 people from across six continents to celebrate the impact of GERI's work in fostering healing, justice, and community transformation.



*GERI Gala Summary Highlights*

From Kenya to Australia, India to North America, UK to Argentina, South Africa to South Korea – GERI's global network continues to expand, weaving together a tapestry of beloved community across cultures. One participant said, "As GERI global friends, we are gathering from Mother Earth and beyond borders!"

With exciting programs ahead in 2025, we invite you to continue this journey with us.

## A Cocoon of Love GERI for Young People at Chrysalis Academy in Cape Town

We are now well into the second year of our expanded collaboration with Chrysalis Academy in Cape Town, which is one of the premier leadership training academies for young adults in South Africa.



*GERI with Young People  
Chrysalis Academy in Cape Town*

Over the past two years, this work has expanded, incorporating both the traditional GERI model and adaptations tailored for families, students, parents, staff, interns, graduates,



and community partners.

In December, Chrysalis Academy graduated their most recent cohort of 200 young women, who each experienced the GERI work as part of the curriculum.

The GERI implementation has also been expanded into programs designed for the students and their families.

During a father-son gathering, a father stood in front of a large group of young men and shared a powerful realization:

*"I have never told my son I love him. Today was the first time I told him. I was reminded that I never heard my father say those words to me."*



Similarly, during a mother-daughter session, a young woman became overwhelmed with emotion while sharing her story. The older women took each other's hands and embraced her with compassion and loving support.

The work also expands to local community partners, such as the workshop conducted in Gugulethu with YearBeyond, November 12 - 14.



*"I wish everyone in this country could experience this workshop. So many of the issues we face—violence, crime, trauma—stem from unhealed wounds. If we could all learn to heal, I truly believe our society would be transformed." - GERI Participant in Gugulethu*

The ninth year-long Professional Facilitator Training program in South Africa, February 23 - 28 welcomes 19 trainees from across Africa, and will be held at Jacana Lodge in Cape Town.

**Planting Seeds of Healing:  
GERI in Kenya  
with police officers, pastors, and teachers**

In November, GERI hosted two

powerful introductory sessions in Kenya—one in Kibera, Nairobi, and another in Busia, Western Kenya—offering participants a glimpse into the transformative potential of gender equity and reconciliation.



*Reflections from Ticha Masai and Amina Jumah*

In Kibera, 23 women and men attended the GERI program, in collaboration with the organization *Tabasamu* (Swahili for Smile) on



November 9. Guided by a skilled facilitation team, participants courageously stepped beyond cultures of silence, sharing their truths and discovering deep connection.

***“The more we try to pretend and ‘act like a man,’ the more we lose the integrity of the real man within us.” – GERI Participant in Kibera***

Afterwards, many women spoke about the lightness they felt, as if they had been able to lay down their burdens in a safe and honoring space. Several men also appreciated the rare opportunity to share their experiences and realize they were not alone.

In Busia, 29 participants—including community leaders, police officers, teachers, and pastors—came together for a GERI intro program on November 29. The session sparked meaningful conversations about the possibility of a gender-healed world, free from violence and discrimination.



The GERI program in Busia is also supported by the work of the Moyo (Swahili for Heart) Circle, inspired by GERI, and implemented by local GERI facilitators Stephen Ticha Masai and Amina Jumah.

We are delighted to build on these powerful introductions with two full three-day workshops to be held in Kisumu April 9 - 11 and Busia April 14 - 16. Click below to enroll.

[Register for Kisumu](#)

[Register for Busia](#)

## Recent GERI Online Session India, United States, and Australia

Recent online Introductory sessions were filled with gratitude, presence, humor, and a spirit of connection.

- Twenty activist leaders from across India participated in an online session conducted in Hindi on January 18. GERI Trainer Ansar Anwar and new GERI graduates, Pallavi S, and Sheela Halkurike, and Leslie Martin co-facilitated.
- Participants from Australia and the U.S. joined a session on January 25. GERI Trainer Hugo Sanchez and new GERI graduate Kara Salter co-facilitated, with Lora Williams as tech facilitator.

As one participant reflected,

*“The workshops feel very organic—especially considering the online setting and technology involved. It proves that this work is truly transformative across space, time, and distance, fostering connection and healing.”*

A huge thank you to everyone who joined! We look forward to continuing this journey together.

Your support is deeply appreciated and makes this work possible.

We warmly welcome your tax-deductible donation to our 501(c)3 educational non-profit. Just click the donate button below!



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