

GRAPE

Global Reformed
Platforms for Engagement

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL TO LOCAL



TRAINING PROGRAMME 2022-23

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Platforms for
Engagement
(GRAPE)

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1 GLOBAL REFORMED PLATFORMS FOR ENGAGEMENT (GRAPE)

The enormity and complexity of the unjust economic dispensation coupled with the climate breakdown demands to shift gear and, as the church, become agents of decisive and tangible change.

The GRAPE initiative embarks on a process to address the root causes by using the unique position of the church as a local actor and as a regional and global communion.

GRAPE aims to leave no stone unturned to find new, creative ways of engagement to become prophetic witnesses.

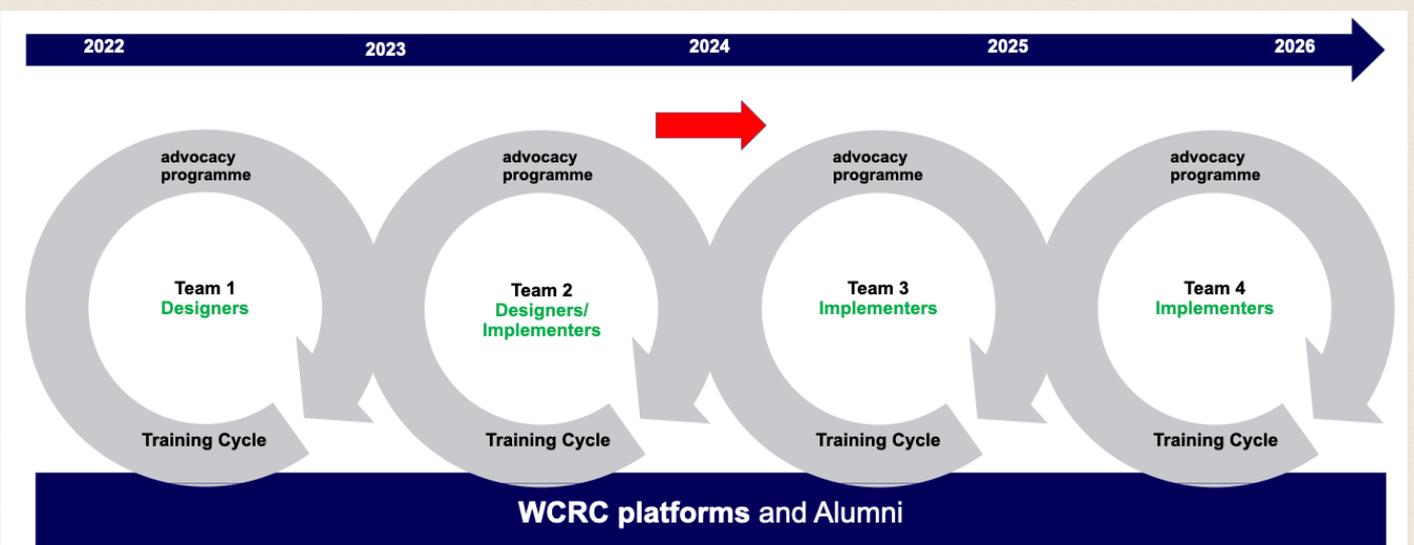
The root cause - the unjust economic system (Accra 2004)

Economic injustice is one of the root causes of the people's suffering and threatens the creation of its very existence.

Racial, gender and class inequality compounded by climate injustice are the drivers of the system forcing millions of people to live in poverty and precarious conditions. The current system exacerbates ecological destruction.

2 TRAINING PROGRAMME - AIM AND DESIGN

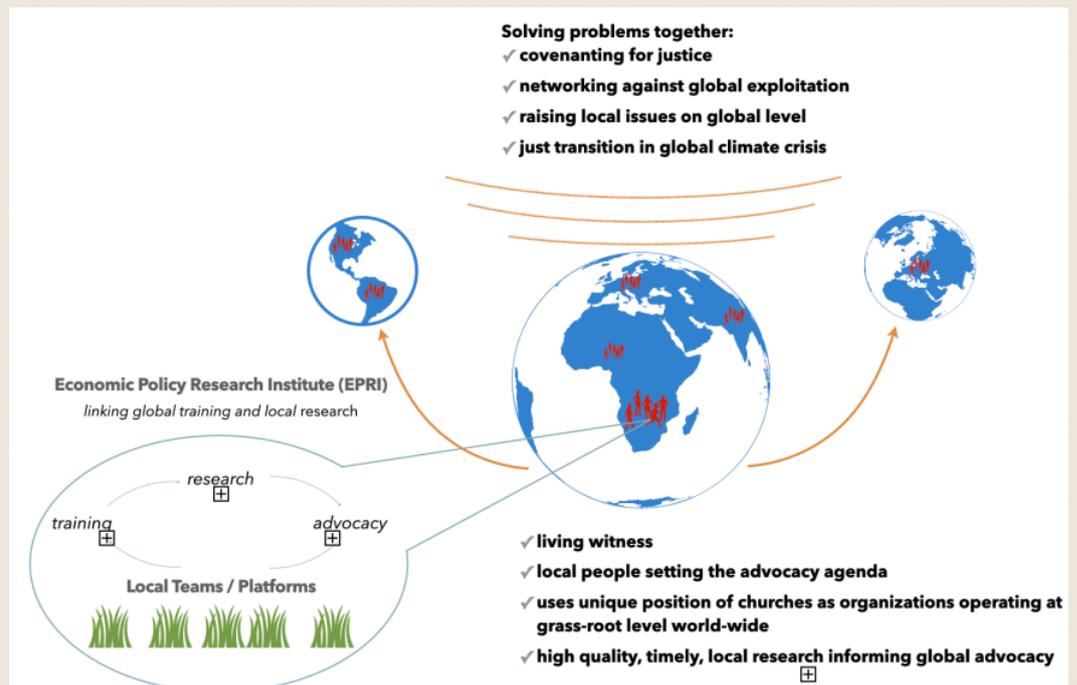
The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), together with the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), establishes global advocacy platforms. The two foci areas are tangible results in economic transformation and democratic peace-building.



The GRAPE training programme engages in local participatory research and high-level evidence-building for effective advocacy work. The local advocacy work is amplified through the WCRC worldwide global network to achieve maximum impact. Consecutive training courses empower teams of church members, NGOs and

other activists on a national level to implement their advocacy programme. The initial team designs and plans the advocacy programme and hands it to the following teams. The local platforms ensure continuity and local ownership while linking the programme globally. The WCRC aims to contribute to meaningful change using its unique grass-roots contact and global network to benefit just and peaceful societies.

The African Communion of Reformed Churches starts the process in two pilot countries, Kenya and South Africa.



THE FOUR TRAINING MODULES:

1. **Capacity Building:** Local teams receive high-level training through intensive online and in-person workshops. The courses unravel the economic and sociological conditions for inclusive social and economic transformation and conflict resolution.
2. **Theological Reflection:** The teams will engage in biblical and contextual theological analysis as a basis for contextual engagement.
3. **Research and Advocacy:** Facilitated through EPRI's mentoring, the teams conduct participatory research, compile quantitative and qualitative research agendas and publish findings to enhance the advocacy work.
4. **Results-Based Management:** The advocacy programmes aim at high-impact outcomes through iterative monitoring and learning.

TRAINING PROGRAMME CONTENT

The modules include:

Participatory research

- case studies & listening surveys
- contextual bible studies

Qualitative and quantitative research

Socio economic concepts

- poverty
- unemployment
- COVID impact and recovery

Budget analysis

- budget tracking
- economic modelling

Climate crisis

- just transition

Documentation

- photography
- audio / video
- webpage / social media

EPRI

The Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) is a global not-for-profit research organisation based in Cape Town, South Africa. EPRI implements long-term training programmes to enable governments, their development partners and civil society institutions to design, implement, monitor and evaluate strategies, policies and programmes that support inclusive social development and equitable economic growth. EPRI engages in social policy formulation and supports implementation.



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PILOT PROJECTS IN KENYA AND SOUTH AFRICA

The GRAPE programme starts with two national pilot projects in Kenya and South Africa. In each country a team of five people receives training and designs an advocacy programme. The advocacy programme follows the local to global to local (L2G2L) approach to transform a local national context, influence global agendas, and benefitting from global structures to support the local national campaigns.

The participants of the two pilot countries attend three training workshops over a period of 18 months and design an advocacy campaign for their countries to achieve tangible and structural change with the support of the global communion. The areas of such an advocacy programme concentrate on issues of national importance with regard to social, economic and climate justice.

WHAT IS THE AIM? SOME PRACTICAL EXAMPLES:

To illustrate the approach and nature of such an advocacy programme the WCRC-ACRC workshop in Johannesburg in July 2022 looked at the Basic Income Grant (BIG) campaign spearheaded by the churches in Namibia in the last two decades. There, in 2005, the churches formed a civil society coalition with unions, AIDS organisations, human and gender rights NGOs to lobby the government to implement a universal cash grant to everybody as a basic right to social security. The churches led the coalition to implement the world's first pilot project to show the impact on development. This



campaign is still active not only in Namibia, but has gained world wide prominence and influences the global campaign for a basic income, social justice and the role of social protection in development.

An other example could be a campaign with the following focus: International companies are present in many countries causing health and environmental damage. A change programme in a country effected by this industry, could do research and provide concrete evidence of the impact of the company's practices for people on the ground with participatory research methodology. Based on this research, the local churches in the country would then work through the GRAPE platforms and the WCRC structure with the church, where the headquarters of the company are, to put pressure on this company. Thereby the local change programme informs a global company with a unique evidence base. At the same time, the local campaign benefits from the pressure being put on the company to implemented change in the country.

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS AIM TO ADDRESS:

- A meaningful relevant national problem**
- Structural and concrete issue**
- Economic issue with relevance for mass poverty**
- Using the unique position of the church based on**
 - Experience of people concerned
 - direct contact to people concerned
 - network nationally / internationally
 - position of trust
- International network / advocacy**
 - connecting to other experiences in the region / internationally

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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS

PILOT COUNTRIES

The following countries are invited: Kenya and South Africa.

TARGET GROUPS

This GRAPE training aims to include people from the WCRC member churches in the country, from ecumenical networks of the WCRC, from civil society, like NGOs and possibly a government official. Participants must have experience and motivation in working on social and economic justice issues and advocacy in their context. They should work or have influence on a strategic level to make a difference.

Participants must be officially endorsed by their own organisations. Endorsing organisations and the selected candidates must ensure their commitment to participate in all phases of the programme. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by the participants organisations, the WCRC and the Economic Policy Research Institute.

PROFILE OF CANDIDATES:

The GRAPE programme aims to build advocacy campaigns for economic justice and peace-building, build by local churches, empowered through the global communion to become agents of decisive and tangible change on local and national level and beyond.

Therefore highly dedicated and active participants are sought. They will be part of the first group actively designing the national advocacy campaign. In order to be successful, this requires openness to think outside the box, challenging current economic and political conditions and finding viable solutions to achieve meaningful, tangible results for the people of South Africa and Kenya.

Successful candidates should therefore have a background and openness to learn in the following fields:

- experience in advocacy/policy debates**
- research background / interest**
- interest in economic and sociological concepts**
- experience in contextual theology**
- good standing in church/community**
- highly motivated to strive for excellence in the team**
- time commitment of actively participating in three workshops and be able to dedicate about one day per week for the next 18 months to work on the GRAPE programme**
- computer literacy**

COSTS

The WCRC will cover all costs such as tuition fee, board and lodging (single room including breakfast and all other meals), roundtrip economy flight tickets between the international airport in the participant's home country and the location of the regional seminars as well as some activities and local transportation within the programme.

Participants must pay for all personal expenses. The programme does not pay a per diem to participants. WCRC is not in the position to finance the participant's advocacy programme.

Application Process:

The attached PDF application should be filled in electronically and submitted via email to GRAPE@epri.org.za. The application form can also be found on the WCRC and EPRI webpage.

After registration, all information regarding the recruitment process will be sent by e-mail. Applications submitted after closing date will not be considered.

Closing date for applications: 7th October 2022

SELECTION PROCESS

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by e-mail for an interview. Once selected, the candidate must confirm participation. Both the selected candidate and her or his organisation must confirm the commitment to participate in all phases of the programme, and to support the work for the programme for advocacy. Both women and men are encouraged to apply. We strive for a gender balance among participants.