

GRAPE

Global Reformed Advocacy
Platforms for Engagement

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL TO LOCAL



TRAINING PROGRAMME INTAKE FOR 2ND COHORT 2024-2025

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1

GLOBAL REFORMED PLATFORMS FOR ENGAGEMENT (GRAPE)

The magnitude and intricacy of the inequitable economic system, coupled with the escalating climate breakdown, necessitate a paradigm shift. As the church, we must transition into proactive agents fostering decisive and tangible change.

The GRAPE initiative endeavors to tackle the root causes of these challenges, leveraging the distinctive position of the church as a local force and a participant in regional and global communion. GRAPE is committed to exploring every avenue, leaving no stone unturned, to discover innovative and transformative methods of engagement, aspiring to be prophetic witnesses for positive change.

Under the GRAPE programme, local WCRC churches are establishing an inclusive platform that bridges ecumenical, interfaith, and civil society realms to participate in an advocacy campaign. The African Communion of Reformed Churches has already initiated this process in two countries, Kenya and South Africa, in 2022.

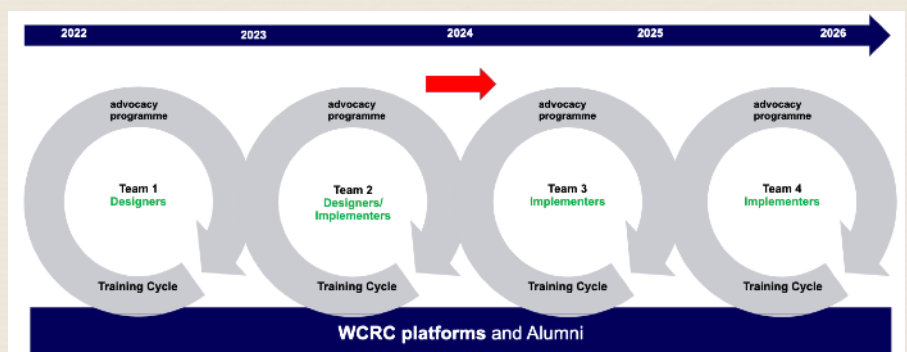
The root cause - the unjust economic system (Accra 2004)

Economic injustice stands as a fundamental cause of human suffering, posing a direct threat to the very existence of our collective humanity. The interplay of racial, gender, and class inequalities, compounded by climate injustice, functions as the driving force behind a system that compels millions to endure lives marked by poverty and precarious conditions. The prevailing system further intensifies ecological destruction, deepening the challenges that threaten the well-being of both people and the planet.

2

TRAINING PROGRAMME AIM AND DESIGN

The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), in collaboration with the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), delivers an advanced training and support programme tailored for the Grape platforms and their advocacy campaigns. This five-year initiative commenced in December 2022 and now welcomes a new cohort of trainees and advocacy champions annually.

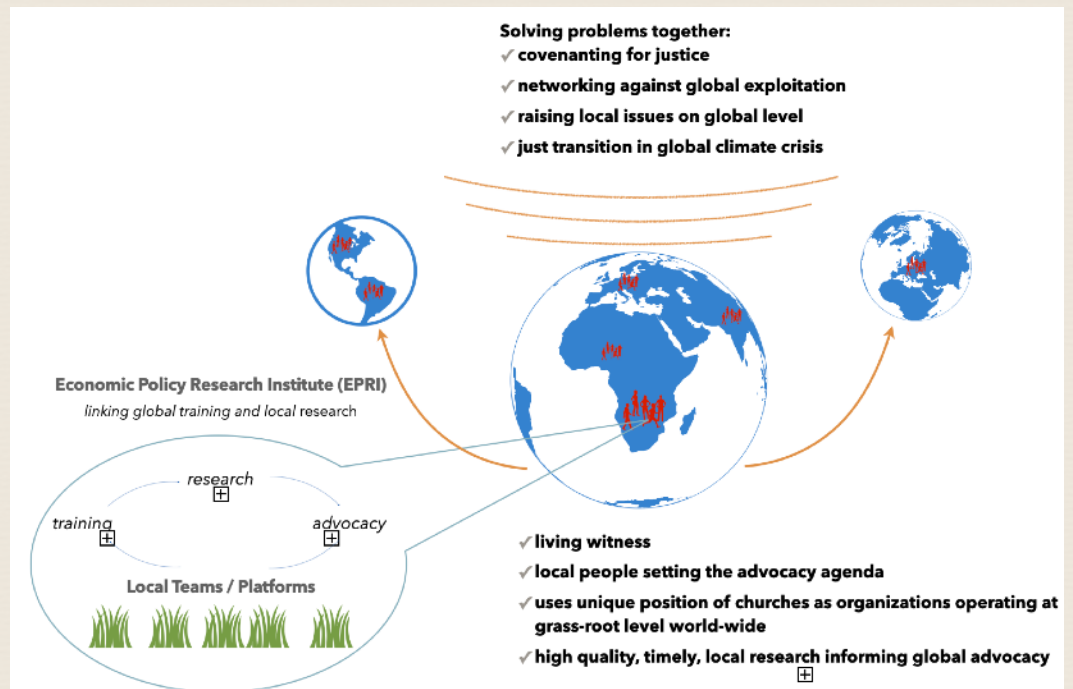


Each cohort undergoes an intensive 18-month training period, during which they actively advance the advocacy campaigns.

The GRAPE programme conducts local participatory research and uses robust evidence-building for impactful advocacy. Local initiatives gain global traction through the extensive WCRC worldwide network, maximizing their influence.

Consecutive training courses empower teams comprising

church members, NGOs, and activists on a national level, facilitating the implementation of advocacy campaigns. In 2022/23, the designer team developed and planned the campaign, passing the baton now to the 2nd cohort for further implementation. The local Grape platforms ensure continuity and local ownership, while also connecting campaigns to global structures. The WCRC, utilizing its unique grass-roots contacts and global network, aims to contribute to meaningful change for just and peaceful societies. EPRI provides high-level training and research support, covering four broad areas:



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.

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.



3

GRAPE CAMPAIGNS IN KENYA AND SOUTH AFRICA

The GRAPE programme started in Kenya and South Africa, where a dedicated team of five individuals underwent training to design an advocacy campaign. This designer cohort will pass the reins of the campaign to the second cohort in the initial six months of 2024 for continued implementation. The second cohort undergoes an 18-month training and support regimen through a mix of in-person, hybrid, and online workshops and meetings. During that time, they will work with the national Grape platforms to advocate for the campaigns.

THE GRAPE CAMPAIGNS IN KENYA & SOUTH AFRICA

Kenya: In response to the severe drought and critical water scarcity arising from the climate crisis, the Grape team has chosen to advocate for the universal right to water. The campaign aims to secure, by 2028, access to 50 liters of clean drinking water for every individual in Kenya or equivalent cash compensation. Besides the national advocacy campaign, there is a compelling argument for the country to receive financial support from global climate justice, adaptation, and mitigation programmes, since Kenya has not been a key driver in terms of the climate crisis. Achieving a just transition can play a pivotal role in realizing the campaign's goal.

South Africa: Faced with the triple challenge of extreme income inequality, widespread poverty, and soaring unemployment rates, the Grape team has taken on the mission to advocate for a Universal Basic Income Grant (UBIG). In collaboration with national organizations, the team lobbies for the introduction of a UBIG of at least R663 per person monthly for individuals aged 18 to 59 by 2028. The team leverages church infrastructure to disseminate campaign information in local languages, especially in rural areas and to politically campaign for the UBIG nationwide.



The second cohort, comprised once again of five members per country team, carries forward these campaigns in their respective countries from 2024 until mid-2025, at which point the subsequent cohort assumes core responsibility. Similar to the initial design team, all teams will continue to support the Grape programme as alumni and build the capacity of the churches.

4

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS

COUNTRIES

The WCRC therefore calls for applications from Kenya and South Africa

TARGET GROUPS

The GRAPE training aspires to encompass individuals from WCRC member churches within the country, as well as those from ecumenical and interfaith networks, civil society organizations such as NGOs, and potentially a government official. Prospective participants are expected to possess both experience and motivation in addressing social and economic justice issues, engaging in advocacy within their respective contexts. Importantly, they should operate or wield influence at a strategic level, capable of making a meaningful impact.

ENDORSEMENT

Participants apply as individuals but 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 EPRI.

COMMITMENT

Participants have to commit time to actively participate in a minimum of three in-person workshops , attend online team meetings on a regular basis and meet the EPRI mentors every three weeks for the next 18 months. Hence the Grape programme requires, on average, about at least one day of work per week for the training and to implement the advocacy campaign. Participants must be able to travel nationally and internationally.

In the first six months of 2024, the dates for in-person engagements are as follows:

Kenya:

Set-up and meeting the 1st cohort:	16th to 18th March 2024 (possible Nairobi, tbc)
Launch of Grape platform:	16th April 2024 in Nairobi
Handing over workshop from 1st to 2nd cohort:	1st to 8th May 2024 in Namibia

South Africa:

Set-up and meeting the 1st cohort:	13th to 15th March 2024 (possible Cape Town, tbc)
Launch of Grape platform:	18th April 2024 in Johannesburg
Handing over workshop from 1st to 2nd cohort:	1st to 8th May 2024 in Namibia

FEES & COSTS

The WCRC fully sponsors the training, encompassing tuition fees, accommodations (single rooms with breakfast and all meals), roundtrip economy flight tickets between the participant's home country's international airport and the regional seminar location, as well as certain activities and local transportation within the programme. Participants are equipped with a tablet and data for online meetings, where adherence to camera usage is required throughout.

Personal expenses are the responsibility of participants, as the programme does not provide a per diem or any other remuneration. Participants work as volunteers in both the advocacy campaign and the Grape programme. It is important to note that the WCRC cannot offer additional funding for the advocacy campaigns in the respective countries.

PROFILE OF CANDIDATES:

The GRAPE programme aims to build advocacy campaigns for economic justice, 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 group moving towards national implementation of the 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

Application Process:

The attached EXCEL application should be filled in electronically and submitted via email to GRAPE@epri.org.za.

All further information will then be communicated by e-mail.

Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered.

Closing date for applications: 11th February 2024

SELECTION PROCESS & INTERVIEW PROCESS

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by e-mail for an interview. The interview will take place between **20th and 23rd February 2024**. 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 on a volunteer basis. We strive for a gender balance among participants.