

# GRAPE

Global Reformed Advocacy  
Platforms for Engagement

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL TO LOCAL



## TRAINING PROGRAMME INTAKE FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> COHORT 2025-2026

1

Global Reformed  
Platforms for  
Engagement  
(GRAPE)

2

Training  
Programme -  
Aim and Design

3

GRAPE campaigns  
in Kenya and  
South Africa

4

Admission  
Requirements and  
Application  
Process

# 1 THE GLOBAL REFORMED PLATFORMS FOR ENGAGEMENT (GRAPE)

The complexity of the unjust current economic system, combined with the worsening climate crisis, requires a shift in approach. As church, we must become active agents of change.

The GRAPE initiative aims to address the root causes of these issues, using the church's unique position as both a local and global force.

GRAPE is dedicated to finding innovative ways to create change and be a prophetic voice for justice and a sustainable future.

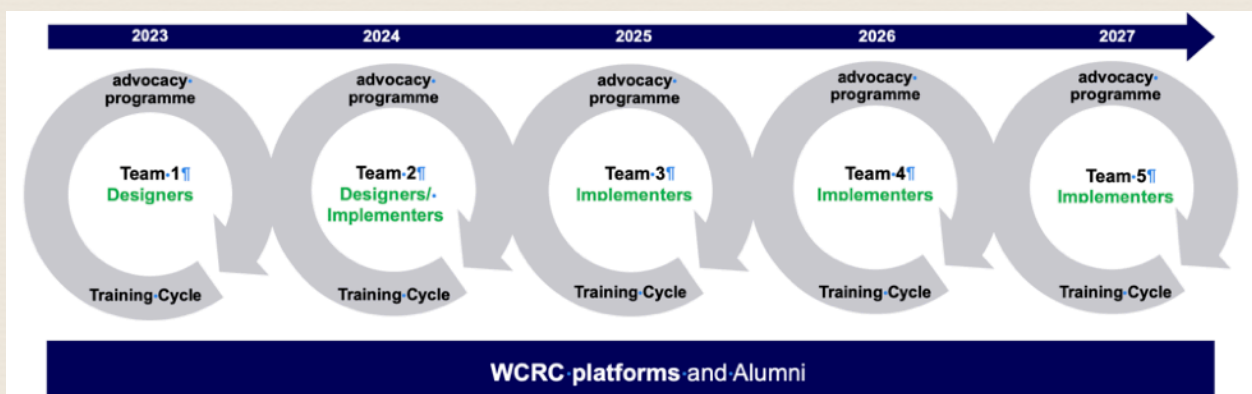
Through the GRAPE program, local WCRC churches are building an inclusive platform that connects ecumenical, interfaith, and civil society groups for advocacy. The African Communion of Reformed Churches started this process in Kenya and South Africa in 2022.

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 HOW DOES THE TRAINING PROGRAMME WORK?

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 program conducts local participatory research, contextual Bible studies, and uses robust evidence-building for impactful advocacy. Local initiatives gain global traction through the WCRC network, maximizing their influence. Consecutive training courses empower church members, NGOs, and activists on a national level, facilitating one advocacy campaign over 5 years. The designer team developed and planned the campaign idea in 2022/23, passing the baton to the 2nd cohort in 2024. The 3rd cohort, starting in 2025, carries on the campaign in their respective countries until mid-2026, at which point the subsequent cohort assumes core responsibility. All teams will continue to support GRAPE as alumni, building church capacity.

The national 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:

## 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.

### 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

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

3

## WHAT ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS ARE IMPLEMENTED IN KENYA AND SOUTH AFRICA?

**Kenya:** In response to the severe droughts, flooding, and critical water scarcity caused by the climate crisis, the GRAPE team has resolved 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 R760 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.



## 4 WHO CAN APPLY AND HOW DOES THE APPLICATION PROCESS WORK?

### 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 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. While the WCRC funds the training programme, the participants need to be highly motivated to develop creative, innovative ideas and activities to use and operate within the local church context and infrastructure without additional budgetary allocation.

### ENDORSEMENT

Participants apply as individuals but must be officially endorsed by their own churches/organisations. Endorsing organisations and the selected candidates must ensure their commitment to participate in all phases of the programme. The participants will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the organisations, the WCRC and EPRI.

### COMMITMENT

Participants have to commit time to actively participate in the four compulsory in-person workshops, attend online team meetings on a regular basis and update the EPRI mentors every three weeks for the next 18 months. Hence, the GRAPE programme requires, on average, 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. Medical insurance during travel is the responsibility of the participants.

In the first six months of 2025, the dates for in-person engagements are as follows. The dates for the two workshops in the second half of the year will be communicated:

#### Kenya:

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Set-up and meeting the 3rd cohort:            | 26th to 28th February 2025   |
| Handing over workshop from 2nd to 3rd cohort: | 30th March to 6th April 2025 |

#### South Africa:

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Set-up and meeting the 3rd cohort:            | 4th to 6th March 2025        |
| Handing over workshop from 2nd to 3rd cohort: | 30th March to 6th April 2025 |

## FEES & COSTS

The WCRC sponsors the training that encompasses 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 standard public 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 supports advocacy campaigns for economic justice, built by local churches and empowered through the global communion to become agents of decisive and tangible change on local, national and global level. Therefore highly dedicated and active participants are sought. They will be part of the group implementing 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 four workshops and be able to dedicate on average one day per week for the next 18 months to work on the GRAPE programme
- computer literacy

## Application Process:

The attached EXCEL application should be filled in electronically and submitted via email to [grape@epri.org.za](mailto: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: 27th January 2025

### SELECTION PROCESS & INTERVIEW PROCESS

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by e-mail for an interview. The interview will take place between **30th and 31st January 2025**. 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.