GRAPE

Global Reformed Advocacy Platforms for Engagement

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL TO LOCAL









Churches advocating for justice!

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Global Reformed Advocacy Platforms for Engagement

CALL FOR THE 5TH GRAPE COHORT APPLICATION 2027-2028

World Communion of Reformed Churches

Economic Policy Research Institute

1 ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The GRAPE initiative equips local churches and civil society in Kenya and South Africa to tackle economic injustice and the climate crisis through advocacy, research, and theological reflection. The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), in partnership with the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), has designed the GRAPE programme that accompanies member churches as well as researchers and activists in their five-year advocacy campaigns. As outlined in the Accra
Confession: "*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*"
Over the course of the five-year programme, five successive cohorts undertake an intensive 18-month training cycle, during which they actively drive the advocacy campaigns forward. Upon completing their training, alumni remain engaged and supportive, providing continuity and reinforcing the long- term sustainability of the advocacy work.
For impactful advocacy, the participants of the GRAPE programme conduct local participatory
research, contextual Bible studies, and build robust evidence for policy advancement. These local initiatives gain global traction through the WCRC network, maximizing their influence. The consecutive training courses empower church members, NGOs, and activists on a national level, advocating for one national policy change over five years.

Kenya and South Africa advocate for

- **Kenya**: the universal right to water—50 liters of clean drinking water per person per day, or equivalent compensation, by 2028.
- **South Africa:** a Universal Basic Income Grant (UBIG) of at least R760 per month for adults aged 18–59 by 2028.

To advance and sustain the campaigns, the programme builds a network of churches, faith-based
organisation and civil society to rally around the advocacy goal. These 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 for the campaigns.

2 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The training programme covers four training modules:

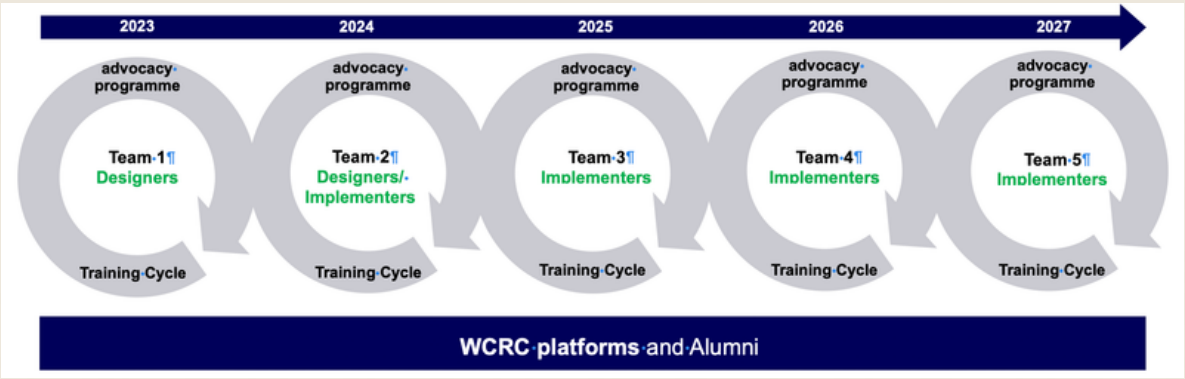
1. **Capacity Building:** Local teams receive high-level training through intensive online and in-person workshops. The courses unravel the economic and sociological conditions for inclusive social and economic transformation and how to fight the climate breakdown.

2. **Theological Reflection:** The teams 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 five-year design is intentionally structured around consecutive cohorts, each building on the work of the previous one. The logic of this progression is as follows:



The first cohort, serving as the design team, developed and planned the campaign concept in 2023 before handing it over to the second cohort in 2024. The third and fourth cohorts, which began in 2025 and 2026 respectively, have been advancing the campaign in their countries. The fifth cohort will be key to implementing the campaign, working towards local ownership and sustainability beyond 2028. All cohorts will remain involved as alumni, continuing to support GRAPE and strengthen the advocacy capacity of the churches.

The participation in the GRAPE programme requires commitment for:

- **Duration:** 18 months (March 2027–August 2028) of active training cycle, plus continuous engagement afterwards
- **Format:** Hybrid training with 4 in-person workshops, weekly online meetings, and mentored team projects.

The dates for cohort 5 are:

- Application deadline: **26 January 2027**
- Interviews: **8–11 February 2027**
- In-person onboarding workshops: **Week of 8–12 March 2027** (in-country)
- Joint in-person cohort workshop: **11–17 April 2027**
- In-person workshop 3 1/2 days: **15-18 August and 9-12 November 2027**

3 WHO SHOULD APPLY?

We are seeking motivated individuals who fit into one or more of the following groups:

- WCRC church members in Kenya and South Africa
- Individuals with a background in ecumenical, interfaith, or civil society organisations (NGOs, community groups)
- Individuals with grassroots experience of advocacy, policy, research, or community leadership

Ideal Candidate Profile

- Experience in advocacy, research, or socio-economic issues
- Background or interest in contextual theology
- Ability to commit 1 day per week for 18 months
- Openness to innovative thinking and challenging unjust systems
- Computer literate;
- Able to travel nationally/internationally
- Officially endorsed by their church or organisation

Funding & Support

- Training, accommodation, meals, and economy flights are all covered by WCRC. Tablet
- and data provided for online sessions.
- No stipend or per diem—participants serve as volunteers.

4 HOW TO APPLY?

Complete the attached Excel application form.

Submit via email to: grape@epri.org.za

Ensure endorsement from your church/organisation is secured.

Applications close 26 January 2027.

Contact: For more information, email grape@epri.org.za
Web: Visit WCRC (www.wcrc.eu) and the GRAPE campaign (www.grape-wcrc.org) websites for more information.