

# Angela J. Gray

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## What does it mean to you to inspire inclusion and support gender equity?

I believe that inclusion and gender equity truly matters. Learning about and applying a lens of diverse thoughts and experience is better for our work, community, and the world. I've had mentors a cross gender and race that have shown me this. My son remains my greatest inspiration. He has taught me a lot about the cost of lack equity and inclusion on family systems. He drives me to do my own inner work. I think to be able to inspire others is truly a privilege.

I've been working for many years to support efforts in this area. The juice for me is the deep meaningful conversations I have engaged in at VCH and within the community. In these conversations I've been able to witness folks shift their perspectives. This is quite beautiful. My origin story has also been a source of motivation for me. My birth mother, Dorothy, came to Turtle Island as an uninvited guest. When my son was young and I was solo parenting, I learned about her struggle as a domestic worker. What she was paid for this work caused significant barriers for her. Pay inequity remains a barrier for us all. Dorothy's story has had a lasting impact on me. The stories of many folks I've come across on my journey pushes me to continue supporting these efforts. It is a gift to learn about the experience of others.

