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URI RELEASES TOOLKIT FOR 9-11 ANNIVERSARY

Guide includes activities and resources to build tolerance and promote respect for diversity.

San Francisco, CA August 16, 2011 – [URI \(United Religions Initiative\)](#), the world’s largest grassroots interfaith organization, has issued a new tool kit to promote religious tolerance and respect for diversity in the United States around the tenth anniversary of the 9-11 attacks.

“The time has come for us to really heal the wounds of 9-11,” said [URI Executive Director Charles Gibbs](#). “We won’t achieve that by marginalizing the Muslims in our midst; we’ll achieve that by embracing them as valued members of our community, in the spirit of a nation founded on the principles of religious freedom and hospitality.”

The tool kit, [Actions for Interfaith Solidarity](#), offers ideas for individual and group activities to bridge religious divides and build relationships of trust. They include direct outreach, interfaith gatherings, community service projects and social networking. The tool kit also includes resources for learning about Islam and reaching out to legislators and the media. An [abbreviated tool card](#) is also available.

The ideas in the tool kit are culled from the work of URI’s nearly 50 member organizations in the United States and Canada—from Los Angeles to Seattle to New York—who have been healing divided communities and promoting interfaith cooperation for more than ten years.

For more information about URI in North America, please visit www.urinorthamerica.org.

About URI:

URI is a global network of 500 grassroots organizations, called Cooperation Circles, dedicated to peace and justice through interfaith and cross-cultural cooperation. Its nearly half a million members are overcoming distrust and hostility every day for the good of their communities—mediating religiously motivated conflict; building schools, orphanages and health clinics; campaigning for citizenship rights and more in 78 countries. They touch the lives of an estimated 2.5 million people. The network is led by

Executive Director Charles Gibbs, President William E. Swing, and Yolanda Trevino, chair of an elected 29-member Global Council of Trustees from 19 countries.

Visit www.uri.org for further information on URI's projects in Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; Middle East and North Africa; North America; and Southeast Asia and the Pacific.