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**URI URGES ACTION FOR WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK**

*Updated tool card offers ideas for individuals and congregations*

San Francisco, CA January 5, 2012 – [URI \(United Religions Initiative\)](#), the world's largest grassroots interfaith organization, has issued an updated and expanded [tool card](#) to encourage people to take action for this year's World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 1-7.

[World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) was established by the UN General Assembly in 2010 in recognition of the importance of "mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue" to peace. URI, an organization founded on the principle of enduring interfaith cooperation for peace and justice, participated actively in the inaugural observance in 2011 and has called on its more than 530 member organizations to participate again this year.

The tool card, originally issued in January 2011, provides ideas for action by individuals and groups alike, including interfaith gatherings, community service projects and social networking as ways to bridge the religious divide and build relationships of trust.

"Interfaith harmony is not just about dialogue among religious leaders," noted URI Acting Executive Director Debra Bernstein. "It is also about ordinary people finding common ground and working side-by-side to heal their communities politically, socially, economically and environmentally. This is more important than ever at a time when struggling economies are exacerbating tensions among different groups both in the U.S. and elsewhere."

Monica Willard, URI's representative at the UN, serves as President of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations, which is organizing a special UN observance in partnership with the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly. Ms. Willard will be among the distinguished speakers at this groundbreaking event, scheduled for February 7th in the UN General Assembly Hall. Click [here](#) for more information.

Other URI events will be posted on the [URI website](#), and additional listings can be found on the official [World Interfaith Harmony Week site](#).

Click [here](#) to view or download the tool card and get more information on URI's World Interfaith Harmony Week activities.

To schedule an interview with Monica Willard or URI Acting Executive Director Debra Bernstein, please contact PR Coordinator [Julian Foley](#).

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***About URI:***

URI is a global grassroots interfaith network that cultivates peace and justice by engaging people to bridge religious and cultural differences and work together for the good of their communities and the world. We implement our mission through local and global initiatives that build the capacity of our more than 530 member groups and organizations in 79 countries to engage in community action such as conflict resolution and reconciliation, environmental sustainability, education, women's and youth programs, and advocacy for human rights. With headquarters in San Francisco, the network is led by Executive Director Charles Gibbs (currently on sabbatical), President William E. Swing, and Yoland Trevino, chair of an elected 29-member Global Council of Trustees from 19 countries.

Visit [www.uri.org](http://www.uri.org) for further information on URI's projects in:

Africa

Asia

Europe

Latin America and the Caribbean

Middle East and North Africa

Southeast Asia and the Pacific

North America