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**URI HONORS UNESCO CENTRE OF CATALONIA AT 2011 CIRCLES OF
LIGHT GALA
Spanish Organization is Pioneer in Interfaith Conflict Mediation**

San Francisco, CA January 26, 2010 – URI (United Religions Initiative), the world’s largest grassroots interfaith organization, will host its 7th annual Circles of Light Gala on the evening of March 5, 2010 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel. This year’s theme is Building Civility: Bridging the Religious Divide.

URI will be honoring the [UNESCO Centre of Catalonia](#), a Barcelona-based organization whose interreligious dialogue arm was a founding member of URI. The center is a pioneer in urban conflict mediation programs in Spain, a country that like much of Europe is grappling with social turmoil caused by rapidly changing demographics and double-digit unemployment rates.

Center Director Miquel Àngel Essomba Gelabert and Elisabeth Lheure, a mediator who is also a URI trustee, will share their inspiring success stories, and offer fresh insight into issues like religious scapegoating and Islamophobia that have entered our own national discourse in recent years.

The evening, an elegant fundraising dinner in celebration of the vibrant URI community and its interfaith work around the world, will include food, drinks and a Spanish musical performance by [Eric Symons](#).

To arrange for media tickets, please contact Rory Brown, rbrown@uri.org. To arrange an interview with Mr. Essomba, Ms. Lheure, or URI’s Executive Director Charles P. Gibbs, please contact Julian Foley, jfoley@uri.org. Click [here](#) to view the full invitation.

About the event:

Event: URI Circles of Light Gala

Date: March 5, 2011

Location: Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, California

Beneficiary: URI (United Religions Initiative), a San Francisco-based global non-profit

Time: 6:30pm – 10:30pm (Cocktail Reception, Dinner, and Performance)

Tickets: \$125.00 and up

Website: www.uri.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

Southeast Asia and the Pacific

North America