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Contact: Michelle Clark
mclark@uri.org
(415) 561-2300 ext. 12

URI MEMBER ORGANIZATION CALLS FOR BAN ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

*“Call of Conscience” issued by Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, former U.S. Secretary of State
George P. Shultz, Stanford Physicist Dr. Sidney Drell and other key leaders*

San Francisco, CA February 14, 2011 – Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons, a member of United Religions Initiative (URI), the world’s largest grassroots interfaith network, has issued a public “Call of Conscience” for a global ban on nuclear weapons.

An international coalition of clergy, grassroots activists, diplomats, scientists and scholars—including former U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Stanford physicist and arms control expert Dr. Sidney Drell, and Global Security Institute President Jonathan Granoff—the organization is creating new popular momentum for the elimination of nuclear weapons. It was founded on August 6, 2010, the 65th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing.

“We believe that the indiscriminate, destructive effects of nuclear weapons render them incompatible with civilized values and international humanitarian law,” the Call of Conscience states. “The threat to use them...is immoral, and contrary to the purposes for which the blessings of life have been given to us.”

Authors of the appeal vow to work together to bring the message to their communities, places of worship and schools; persuade governments to make enforceable commitments to first reduce and then eliminate their arsenals; and align their religious institutions’ investment policies with their goals.

“As nuclear weapons proliferate, as nuclear knowledge and materials are sold worldwide, the odds of conflagration move inexorably higher,” said founding member Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, retired Episcopal Bishop of California and President of URI. “Rather than wait to be blown to kingdom come in the future, we are working to eliminate the threat to the earth here and now.”

Click [here](#) to read the full text of the Call of Conscience.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Michelle Clark, mclark@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; North America; and Southeast Asia and the Pacific.