In June 2019, people from the world’s religions, spiritual and Indigenous traditions gathered at Stanford University with international peacebuilders and policy makers for a conference hosted by URI to explore interfaith action in global peacebuilding.
From my perspective, the URI conference at Hoover was a great success. The various sessions were interesting – even riveting at times – and the fascinating diversity of URI’s membership was on full display.

Today more than ever, the world needs URI and its constructive approach of bringing together people of different faiths to solve the pressing problems of our day in countries throughout the world. URI’s stunning growth over the past twenty years is testimony to the vision and wholehearted dedication that the founders have given to the organization from its inception.

The Hon. George P. Shultz
Thomas W. and Susan B. Ford Distinguished Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Former Secretary of State for the United States, and Honorary Member of URI’s President’s Council
URI's International Conference held June 26-27, 2019 at Stanford University

400+ Attendees
50+ Speakers
Representing
30+ Countries
15+ Religions or Traditions
6 Continents
REMARKS BY H.E. ADAMA DIENG

Excerpts from H. E. Adama Dieng’s Keynote Speech, delivered at URI’s Accelerate Peace Conference

At a time when we are seeing a disturbing groundswell of xenophobia, racism, and intolerance, including anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim, hatred and persecution of Christians, I must focus my remarks on the role of religious actors as peacemakers.

This is a time when we need to get together to build peace. It is a time for acceleration, not a time for fueling tension. We need therefore today to make sure that religious leaders and actors engage in strategies aimed to prevent atrocities, crimes and their incitement.

Religious people have more in common than we may think. We must step together to stamp out hatred and the impact it has on societies. We have a responsibility to promote peaceful and inclusive societies where human dignity is respected without discrimination.

It is no surprise that I decided today to become a member of URI. When I retire, I will establish a chapter in my hometown in Senegal where I hope one day we can have a big conference like this one in West Africa.

H.E. Adama Dieng
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide for the UN Office of Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

"Thank you to URI for what you are doing. I think today if I had that authority, I would’ve nominated URI for the Nobel Peace Prize."
- H.E. Adama Dieng

WATCH THE VIDEO!
uri.org/accelerate-peace/Dieng
Theologian Hans Kung wrote, “There will be no peace among nations, without peace among religions.” Throughout human history, religion has been used as a motivation and justification for war, while at the same time religion has been used to inspire people to seek peace.

In this session, Bishop William Swing and General James Mattis discussed issues of religion, war and peace.

WATCH THE VIDEO!
uri.org/accelerate-peace/Mattis
Valarie Kaur has become one of the most dynamic leaders in the interfaith movement, challenging us to ground the movement in an ethic of love.

In describing The Revolutionary Love Movement and calling us to action, Valarie Kaur says, “We believe Revolutionary Love is the call of our times. In an era of enormous rage, we must resist dangerous policies and acts of hate that threaten our most vulnerable communities. But resistance alone will not deliver us: we will burn out or even start to mirror the rage we are resisting. So we are staging a cultural intervention to birth a new future. Our mission: to equip our movements and communities with tools to labor in love — love for others, our opponents, and ourselves. When we pour love in these three directions, then love becomes revolutionary.”

WATCH THE VIDEO!
uri.org/accelerate-peace/Kaur

"Thank you so much to URI, for I believe that the work you do in the world and the work that you have been doing at this convening is of urgent importance."
- Valarie Kaur
Peacebuilding: From Dialogue to Action

“We have to be able to work together, join hands together, because there is no one person, no one government, no one organization that can tackle our global challenges alone.”

- Audrey Kitagawa, JD

MODERATOR
The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.,
Executive Director of URI

PANELISTS
The Rev. Jennifer Bailey, Founder and Executive Director of the Faith Matters Network
Radia Bakkouch, President of Coexister, France, a URI Cooperation Circle
Maria Crespo, Director of Cooperation Circle Support, URI
Audrey Kitagawa, JD, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Parliament of the World’s Religions
Phil Lane Jr., Hereditary Chief, Ihanktonwan Dakota and Chickasaw First Nations, URI Trustee
Rabbi Daniel L. Lehmann, President of the Graduate Theological Union
Michael G. Pappas, M.Div., Executive Director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, a URI Cooperation Circle

Two Cooperation Circles - Bulgarian NGO BRIDGES and URI Netherlands - partnered to create a photography exhibition reflecting the search for dialogue between cultures by gathering teenagers of different ethnicities and religious backgrounds, building trust and friendships between participants as the project grew.
What is interfaith action? How does interfaith action fit into the larger framework of global peacebuilding? This session explored the field of interfaith peacebuilding and the relationship between interfaith understanding, interfaith dialogue and interfaith action in the global and local peacebuilding process.

WATCH THE VIDEO!

uri.org/accelerate-peace/session1
Ending Religiously Motivated Violence

VIDEO CASE PRESENTATION:
Countering Violent Extremism in Nigeria

Introduced by Dr. Emmanuel Ivorgba, West Africa Regional Coordinator, URI

MODERATOR:
Prof. Dr. Azza Karam, Senior Advisor at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Chair of the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion

PANELISTS:
Samira Barucija, Co-founder of Youth For Peace, Bosnia and Herzegovina, a URI Cooperation Circle
Mussie Hailu, Former Ambassador, Director of Global Partnerships and Africa Coordinator for URI
Mamoun Khreisat, Middle East and North Africa Regional Coordinator, URI
James Patton, President and CEO of the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy
Musa Sanguila, Director of Pakigdait, Philippines, a URI Cooperation Circle
Jessica Trubowitch, Director of Public Policy and Community Building at the Jewish Community Relations Council
Janessa Gans Wilder, Founder and CEO of the Euphrates Institute, a URI Cooperation Circle

"A lot of what we see with religion and religiously motivated violence, is really other grievances among the mass of people that get mobilized by an ideologue who comes in and wraps the other grievances in a religious narrative."

- James Patton

Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena, a URI Cooperation Circle and NGO that builds deep relationships with religious leaders of the four major ethnic groups of Sri Lanka, was able to use their influence to bring a fractured community together after a violent attack on a Sinhalese truck driver by Muslim youth, preventing the incident from sparking further violence.
Violence in the name of religion has become one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. This session explored how interfaith efforts to confront this challenge are a critical component of the overall effort to counter violent extremism, prevent mass atrocities and genocide, rebuild communities and societies post-conflict, build positive relationships between people of different beliefs and create the conditions that are essential for sustainable peace.

WATCH THE VIDEO!
uri.org/accelerate-peace/session3
Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

"Accepting nuclear weapons as the ultimate arbiter of conflict condemns the world to live under a dark cloud of perpetual anxiety."
- Jonathan Granoff

PANELISTS:
Kehkashan Basu,
Founder President of Green Hope Foundation

Jonathan Granoff,
President of the Global Security Institute

The Right Rev. William E. Swing,
President and Founding Trustee, URI

A CHILD’S PRAYER:
Janessa Gans Wilder,
Founder and CEO of the Euphrates Institute, a URI Cooperation Circle

Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons is a URI Cooperation Circle composed of members from across political, professional, spiritual, and geographical spectra – including the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense under Presidents Reagan and Clinton – who have united in a single purpose: to eliminate nuclear weapons.
The capability to destroy all life on our planet has been around for a while. What makes this moment unique is that we have now charted a course that points to an endlessly higher risk. This session, led by Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons, explored how to set a realistic, moral and vital path toward nuclear arms reduction and elimination.

WATCH THE VIDEO!
uri.org/accelerate-peace/session2
Gathering the World
Strengthening Connections
"Justice for the Earth is justice for women."
- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati

Women's Empowerment and Environmental Sustainability

SPEAKER:
Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), and President of the Divine Shakti Foundation

VIDEO CASE PRESENTATION BY:
Amira Diamond, Co-Founder of the Women’s Earth Alliance and the Ripple Academy
Melinda Kramer, Founder and Executive Director of the Women’s Earth Alliance, Co-Founder of the Ripple Academy

MODERATOR:
Kiran Bali, MBE JP, Chair of the Global Council of Trustees, URI

PANELISTS:
Despina Namwembe, Regional Coordinator for URI-Africa Great Lakes
Swamini Adityananda Saraswati, Director of Programmes, Policy and Development of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), a URI Cooperation Circle, and URI Trustee
Sofia Painiqueo, Mapuche Indigenous Leader, Founder of the Aflailai Foundation, a URI Cooperation Circle, and URI Trustee
Monica Willard, URI Representative to the United Nations in New York

URI Cooperation Circle Quinaroa empowers women in the Venezuelan Andes to become financially independent through the manufacture of eco-friendly soap - a factor that helps the women to be treated with more respect by their families and communities as well.
As women’s lives and well-being continue to be disproportionately impacted by ongoing violence, injustice and oppression, and as the Earth and her inhabitants suffer from the impacts of environmental degradation, interfaith peacebuilders are engaging these critical issues on a global and local scale.

WATCH THE VIDEOS!
uri.org/accelerate-peace/Sadhvi
uri.org/accelerate-peace/session4
Global Organizations and Grassroots Partnerships

MODERATOR:
Suzanne Eloise Siskel, Executive Vice President and COO, The Asia Foundation, URI President’s Council Member

PANELISTS:
Kate Cumbo, PhD, Executive Director, PeaceJam Foundation
Rabbi Serena Eisenberg, Regional Director, AJC Northern California
Dr. Brian J. Grim, President, Religious Freedom and Business Foundation
Rev. Susan O. Hayward, Senior Advisor, Religion & Inclusive Societies, US Institute of Peace
Aqeela Jogee, Vice President of Programs, Give2Asia

"There's no one solution, whether that's economic or political or social or religious, that's going to solve it."
- Rev. Susan O. Hayward

By fostering partnerships amongst far-reaching members such as the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance in India and Linda Tucker Foundation in South Africa, URI's Environmental Network gives small and large Cooperation Circles the amplified impact of a unified voice, uniting people from all over the world in a passionate effort to protect our shared planet.
Too often in the peacebuilding process, a gap exists between global organizations and those at the grassroots engaged in work that seeks to address critical issues including conflict, violence and injustice. This session explored strategies for closing this gap and why global organizations are prioritizing grassroots partnerships.

WATCH THE VIDEO!
uri.org/accelerate-peace/session5
"We are living in difficult times, and as young change-makers, my wish is that we all bring interfaith into action."

- Subhi Dhupar

STORYTELLERS:

Subhi Dhupar, URI Regional Coordinator for North India

Daniel Eror, Youth for Peace, Bosnia and Herzegovina, a URI Cooperation Circle, and URI Trustee

Sari Heidenreich, former URI North America Regional Coordinator

Vincent Leong, Young Leader URI SEAPAC, Malaysia

Johnny Martin, Youth Director, Arizona Interfaith Network, a URI Cooperation Circle, and URI Trustee

Wambui Ngige, Human Rights Attorney, and URI Trustee

Sarah Oliver, Global Youth Coordinator, URI

Ishaq Pathan, Deputy Director, Islamic Networks Group (ING)

Shayda Sales, URI North America Young Leader

Elle Segal, Public Affairs and Civic Engagement Manager, JCRC San Francisco

Vilma Palax Tuy, Founder and Vice President, Descendientes de Guatamaya, a URI Cooperation Circle

Valeria Vergani, Director of the Board of the InterSpiritual Sustainability Council of British Columbia, a URI Cooperation Circle, and URI Trustee

URI Cooperation Circle Camp Anytown Las Vegas gives young people positive experiences of living side-by-side with peers from ethnically and religiously diverse communities. The group brings together Christians and Jews, homeless youth and youth from wealthy families, youth with different skin colors and beliefs, and prepares them for productive life in a multicultural society.
Responding to the Call to Action through love for others, our opponents and ourselves, these young interfaith leaders weave their stories together - reflecting on their own traditions, on that which calls them to action, and in turn calls us to be interfaith peacebuilders in our communities and in our world.

WATCH THE VIDEO!
uri.org/accelerate-peace/storytellers
We Are
PEOPLE
UNITING

1,026 Cooperation Circles (CCs) in 108 Countries*

*Numbers as of September 2019
Cooperation Circles

23 Countries

60 Cooperation Circles

23 Countries

86 Cooperation Circles

17 Countries

231 Cooperation Circles

33 Countries

380 Cooperation Circles

9 Countries

52 Cooperation Circles

8 Countries

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

AFRICA

ASIA

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

EUROPE

MULTIREGION**

**Cooperation Circles with members in more than one region or whose work is global in scope.
Our Leadership

URI is sincerely grateful to our leaders for their steadfast commitment to accelerate peace in the world.

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Monica Willard, URI Representative to the United Nations in New York
Global Efficiency

URI's efficiency is rewarded with the highest rating (★★★★★) on Charity Navigator.

Key Revenue and Expenses Information for year ended December 31, 2018*

** URI also received $1,322,000 as a donor/Board restricted contribution to the endowment, quasi-endowment, and strategic reserves. This amount is not included in the 2018 total revenue.

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* Unaudited. Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.
Accelerate peace by investing in URI's global network. Be a catalyst for change and impact URI's future efforts in communities around the world. Actively enhance the visibility of URI. Express your commitment on the enclosed envelope or on URI's website.

Every contribution matters. Every contribution accelerates peace.

Invest in URI's Future

Multi-Year Giving
Pledge your annual contribution for several years.

Monthly Giving Circle
Commit to ongoing giving and contribute your donation in installments

Legacy Circle Giving
Consider including URI in your estate plans and inform URI about it.

Endowment Support
Contact the URI Development Department with an interest in supporting URI with a significant gift.

uri.org/donate

Enhance URI's Visibility

Partnership Bridgebuilder
Help URI connect and develop partnerships with like-minded organizations including corporate and foundation connections.

Social Media Influencer
Spread the word about URI to your friends and colleagues through social media.

Connection Facilitator
Host an event to introduce friends and colleagues to help URI raise awareness.

Media Outreach
Boost URI's visibility by connecting URI with local, national and international media.
The purpose of URI is to promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings.