



uri  **WIN URI CC Newsletter**

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ELANA ROZENMAN, CO-CONTACT PERSON WIN URI CC

CONGRATULATIONS WIN URI CC!

WIN URI CC -- Women's Interfaith Network of the URI Cooperation Circle was founded at the URI Global Council Meeting in May 2006 by twenty women and two men. Our most recent meeting was at the San Francisco Global meeting and was attended by thirty women and our loyal supporter Mussie Hailu. The Israeli and Palestinian Healing and Peace Quilt graced our meeting and appear in our photo.

Our purpose is to provide an interactive global network for women's projects to be realized locally and globally. We have long envisioned creating a newsletter to publicize the amazing work of URI women in so many corners of the world which often goes unrecognized and unreported. We are so grateful to Qutub and her team for realizing our dream and enabling the many accomplishments of URI women to reach a large audience and facilitate communication and awareness. May we go from strength to strength!



DESPINA NAMWEMBE, Co – Contact Person WIN URI CC.

As women working with people from different faith communities, we have our stories to tell. Our stories maybe the everyday stories but their uniqueness sometimes comes with how we are able to work through faith traditions that sometimes challenge our existence while some support who we are as a strong gender that supports and anchors wisdom for humanity.

On a daily basis I am in conversation with women that are either celebrating life or being challenged by life. Women by default would love to see everybody happy because that is how many were created. We are mothers irrespective of biological abilities to produce children. We assume the responsibility of protection of every human being and that is why our stories have a deeper connection to life itself.

Our WIN URI CC newsletter shall be a combination of individual stories but also community stories from groups of women doing incredible work in the different circles. We want to see women uplifted and supported. We want them to have a special space of belonging and special focus given to them. These shall be both young and older women, rural and urban, working class and stay home women, those in the lime light and those whose voice is often not heard. We have men who have always supported us since our inception, and those who got interested along the way and we shall be more than happy to feature their voices of support throughout this process.

I am happy that we have reached this major milestone after years of trying to figure out who we are and how we should project ourselves within the network. This newsletter is going to be so interesting and I do urge people to always take a moment to read it and understand the great work of the feminine energy from around the world. May Peace Prevail on earth!

20 MILLION WOMEN STRONG CAMPAIGN



20 Million Women Strong (#20MWS) is a movement around the world for children, families, and the Earth, born of the conviction that, when women stand up together, changes happens! NOW is the time to create a shift in the consciousness that determines the condition of women, children, families, and the Earth!

#20MWS Global Action Days, the year-long #20MWS campaign, begins September 21, 2019, in alignment with the UN International Day of Peace. View the various UN Days of Observance that 20MWS Global Action Days aligns with, here: <https://20millionwomenstrong.org/#global-action-days>

To add your voice in support of #20MWS, please click here:

Share your prayers, writing, and art on our official Facebook Page, here: <https://facebook.com/20millionwomenstrong>

Search and tag 20 Million Women Strong using the hashtags: #20MWS and #20MillionWomenStrong

“Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul.” – Coretta Scott King

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN



The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10

December, Human Rights Day. It was started by activists at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and continues to be coordinated each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

In support of this civil society initiative, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General's UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women campaign (UNiTE campaign) calls for global actions to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 2019 - Generation Equality stands against rape



In 2019, the UNiTE campaign will mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, from 25 November to 10 December, under the theme, “Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape!”

While the names, times and contexts may differ, women and girls universally experience rape, sexual violence, and abuse, in times of peace or war.

Rape is rooted in a complex set of patriarchal beliefs, power, and control that continue to create a social environment in which sexual violence is pervasive and normalized. Exact numbers of rape and sexual assaults are notoriously difficult to confirm due to frequent latitude and impunity for perpetrators, stigma towards survivors, and their subsequent silence.

In recent years, the voices of survivors and activists, through campaigns such as #MeToo, #TimesUp, #Niunamenos, #NotOneMore, #BalanceTonPorc, and others, have put the spotlight on the issue of sexual violence and have reached a crescendo that cannot be silenced or ignored anymore.

That is why, under the umbrella of UN Women's Generation Equality campaign that marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the UNiTE Campaign is calling on people from all walks of life to learn more and take a stand against the pervasive rape culture that surrounds us.

Join us! Share your photos, messages and videos showing how you are participating in the campaign on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter using #OrangeTheWorld and #GenerationEquality. You can also join the conversation on social media by sharing our campaign materials that you can download here. For more information about “Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape” and action ideas

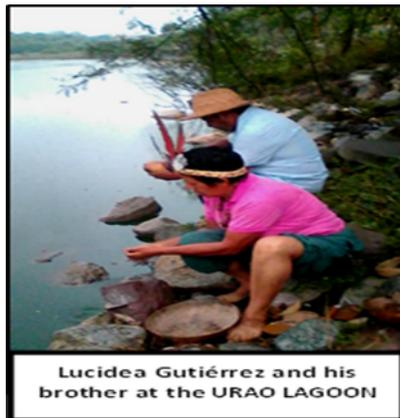
WIN NEWS

WOMAN, WISDOM AND ENVIRONMENT

Yelitza Rangel, Venezuela



For the women of the Quinaroas Indigenous People, it is important that their elders instill in the future generations the feeling of protecting Mother Earth and living beings of their Indigenous culture. We, as women, are glad to have elder Lucidia Gutiérrez among us, who has done a valuable work for the protection of the URAO LAGOON (Laguna de URAO, which is our mother, we come from her and this sacred water nourishes spiritually of the Lagunillas' indigenous people.



Lucidea Gutiérrez and his brother at the URAO LAGOON

A few years ago we were very worried because our 'lagoon', our 'mother' was drying up. Meetings were held with many socially, economically, politically and religiously people, the good thing was that beyond their differences everyone agreed that if the lagoon dried up Lagunillas would lose its essence. Because of these meetings and the work we did, the intervention in the mountains has diminished and workshops, talks, videos and corrective acts have been done with schools, explaining children and teen-agers the meaning of keeping the caring traditions and good practices towards the environment. However, the unconscious relation with nature is still there and we have to add each day more efforts to protect the URAO LAGOON and other environmental resources. We must learn how to use technological advances for the benefit of our lands and waters, and the quality of life of our communities, more and more people around the world know today, that the struggles and work done in favor of the Mother Earth and the women's empowerment are interconnected, these efforts shouldn't be isolated.

For our Indigenous society, each girl who comes to this world is trained in the significance she has for the earth, since they are in their mother's womb they are instilled that they are lights that will be shining for us. Boys also have a fundamental role, male children are raised knowing they have to respect and to work in common with women, they have rights and duties, they know that we are a complement, both are important to fulfill and upkeep balance in nature, they are counterparts. Of course ... when something is not given, it is not necessary to force it to happen because its path through the earth always has a purpose either alone or accompanied. The elderly Lucidia and other women of the Quinaroes Community have kept alive for all these years the practices and oral traditions of our indigenous feeling of life, our indigenous elders are a source of wisdom for us.

2019 International Day of Peace: Climate Action for Peace UN Headquarter



Secretary-General António Guterres and Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th General Assembly rang the Peace Bell. Dignitaries included Koro Bessho, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Deputy SG Amina Mohammed, Messengers of Peace Midori Goto and Yo-Yo Ma and the SG's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake. Melissa Fleming, USG for Global Communications was the moderator. Students carried the flags of the 193 Member States of the United Nations to send messages of peace to each country



Kehkashan Basu, the founder of the Green Hope Foundation was chosen to be as the youth moderator for the student presentation, student Projects and the ringing of the May Peace Prevail on Earth International's Peace Bell in the room with students at noon. ACT NOW is a UN initiative in the SDG section of Global Communications to promote reporting of climate change actions. Tolu Olubunmi shared this program and a video done by The Angry Bird's to illustrate climate change.

International Day of Peace NGO Committee with student presenters George Anthony, Brandon Perdomo, Rick Ulfik, Matt Smith-back row Monica Willard, Kehkashan Basu, Alina Xu, Kasha Sequoia Slaayner,

Sabina Sahnoun and Georgina Galanis.

TRUST WIN CC visit to Jisr a Zarka school for the International Day of Peace

TRUST WIN Christian, Druze, Jewish and Muslim women from neighboring communities were welcomed by the principal and teachers to the Al Sharki school in the village of Jisr A Zarka on September 11. We shared with 100 sixth grade students some teachings about Peace and the Environment from our religions as a preparation for the IDP – International Day of Peace on September 21. We were hosted to a meal by the local women and taken on a walking tour to the sea.



After explaining the interfaith sisterhood of TRUST WIN and our connection to URI, we presented a plate with Shalom, Salaam, Peace in three languages to the school, and gave URI pins to the principal, Abdel Rauf Jurban, and to Faten Jurban Mahamid, the teacher who coordinated the visit.

We acknowledged the tragic terrorist attack that took place on this day 18 years ago in New York when 3000 people were killed – Christian, Muslim, Jewish as well as many other religions. We hoped through the teachings from Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Druze we could transform the suffering of this day into deeper connections between the religions of the Holy Land. We offered prayers from each religion.

The women visited 100 students in three 6th grade classrooms bringing teachings from our religions about the environment in preparation for the theme of this year's IDP. The message was, if we work together we can bring understanding, cooperation and mutual efforts to save the planet.

URI Women in Mumbai for Democratic Rights



The present political scenario in India is creating a dissent among the leaders, civil society members, academicians, journalists and scholars. The democratic space is shrinking. Women are marching and creating awareness for constitutional rights and also more women voice in the parliament. Various studies demonstrates that countries do not become fully democratic without political and social rights for women. Including women as equal participants in the decision-making that affects their lives and their communities, is both a rights issue and an issue of democratic system.

Women's participation in decision making is essential for women's interests to be incorporated into governance. It has been widely experienced that governance structures which do not provide for adequate participation of women, often suffer from state interventions which are neither inclusive nor democratic.

The constitution is being challenged by the radical elements and secular fabric of the nation is weakened. The URI women launched an awareness campaign in April, 2019 before the Parliamentary election to vote for secular leadership and maintain communal harmony during and post- election. They rallied in the suburbs of Mumbai and invited people to vote for just governance.

URI Women Initiative in Pakistan



On 26th September, 2019 URI Women Wing organized Graduation Ceremony at the completion of six months tailoring sewing and knitting course for the women students of Kirshan Mindar Taxali Gate Lahore, Pakistan. URI Women Wing Pakistan established this vocational center in Krishna Mindar Lahore with the cooperation circle of Anglo Asian Friendship Society. URI Women Wing designed a six months training

course which was implemented in this center with thirty poor women and girls of different religions as Hindus, Muslims and Christian. Mostly from poor background and illiterate. They got this training with great interest and responsibility. Sr.Sabina Rifat Coordinator URI Women Wing Pakistan observed that mostly women and girls after morning work remain in homes and mostly girls aged 15 to 20 do not go to school because of family poor condition. She visited these families and girls and had a survey with the help of Mr. Asher Nazir. She has some meetings with these girls and women who were willing to learn the sewing skills. This initiative provided them opportunity to learn skill and contributed in their family income, this way 30 women and girls learnt this skill of sewing and knitting and became fruitful part of their family.

Women Wing URI Pakistan enrolled 30 (women or girls) in the center of Krishna Mandar Taxali Gate Lahore for six months and trainings were given for sewing, knitting and embroidery. Also fabric painting, glass painting and handmade decoration skills imparted to them during the training duration.



UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE

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