



The Sustainable Development Goals projected on the façade of the UN are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity and equity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

YEAR 2019 IN REVIEW



URI is accredited at the United Nations as an NGO with the [Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#) and with the [Department of Global Communications \(DGC\)](#). URI has Memos of Understanding with [United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#) and the [Office of Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect](#).

The work of URI Cooperation Circles around the world inspires our work at the UN.

Our participation at the United Nations continues to promote interfaith cooperation and contribute to creating cultures of peace, justice, and healing for the Earth and all living beings.

Meet our URI-UN Representatives:

[Monica Willard](#) is the main UN representative in New York and coordinates the UN team. She serves as co-chair of the [International Day of Peace NGO Committee](#).

[Mussie Hailu](#) serves as Director of Global Partnerships and as URI UN representative in Geneva and New York, directing our Memos of Understanding with the United Nations.

[Martha Gallahue](#) works on the [NGO Committee on Finance for Development](#), the [Spiritual Caucus](#), and the [URI-UN CC](#).

[Rev. Debra Gill](#) advances [Indigenous Issues](#) and the [Mining Working Group](#).

[Rabbi Roger Ross](#) represents us on the [CONGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns](#) and is active organizing for the [Week of Spirituality](#).



[Amb. Leslie Gatan](#) serves on the [Committee of Religious NGOs](#) and connects URI to Missions.

[Rick Ulfik](#) organizes the [11 Days of Global Unity](#) for the International Day of Peace, and networks globally on social media.

[Audrey Kitagawa](#) serves as the Chair of the Board for the [Parliament of the World's Religions](#) and is a global spokesperson for URI.

2019 interns: [Jill Werbisky](#), [Matt Smith](#), and [Alina Xu](#).



Spiritual Caucus Weekly Meditation Group at the UN and around the World

JANUARY

PARTNERSHIPS

The United Religions Initiative partnered with: ACT Alliance, General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, Islamic Relief USA, World Council of Churches and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development for the:

5th Annual Symposium on the Role of Religion and Faith-Based Organizations in International Affairs.

“Financing for Sustainable Development: Towards an Economy of Life”



Panel Three: Sustainable Resourcing for Sustainable Development
Mr. Sharif Aly, Chief Executive Officer, Islamic Relief USA, **Mr. Navid Hanif**, Director for Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs; **Ms. Mercy Niwe**, World Bank Lead for Global Faith Initiatives, World Bank Group, **Bishop Ingeborg Middtømme**, Bishop of Møre, Church of Norway, **Hereditary Chief Phil Lane Jr.**, At-Large Trustee, United Religions Initiative

FEBRUARY

WORLD INTERFAITH

HARMONY WEEK included three URI events – the Symposium on Religions and Faith-based Organizations, North American Youth and Unity Earth Convergence!



Sari Heidenrich, URI North America Regional Coordinator, organized the 4th annual United Nations youth visit for World Interfaith Harmony Week. **Laila Galarsa**, **Caitlin Ferrell**, **Sofia Schersel**, **Emerald Stanton**, **Gabrielle Henry**, **Maliha Shaikh** and **Patrick Horn** came to the UN from CCs in California, Nevada, Texas and New York.

MARCH

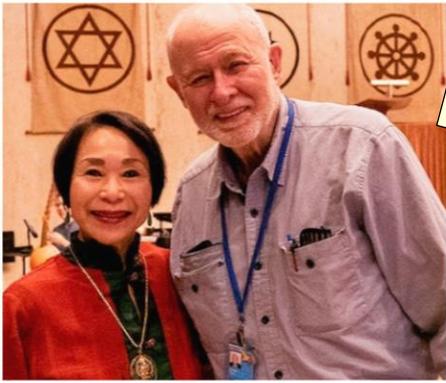
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MARCH 11-21

CSW SOCIAL COHESION PANEL



5th Annual CSW Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Gratitude



Audrey Kitagawa
Rabbi Roger Ross



CSW Workshop organized by Dr. Nancy Scanlon, Florida International University, and URI-UN CC



ALCHEMY OF WOMEN
Gathering for the Commission on the Status of Women



Grandmother Nancy Andry taught us a water purification song as part of the world water ceremony she conducted with Rev. Debra Gill.

Rev. Debra Gill introduced Frank Menusan Generous Bear, Muscogee Creek Elder, who shared his story of being raised by his mother and grandmother.



Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development Working at UNFPA during CSW

APRIL

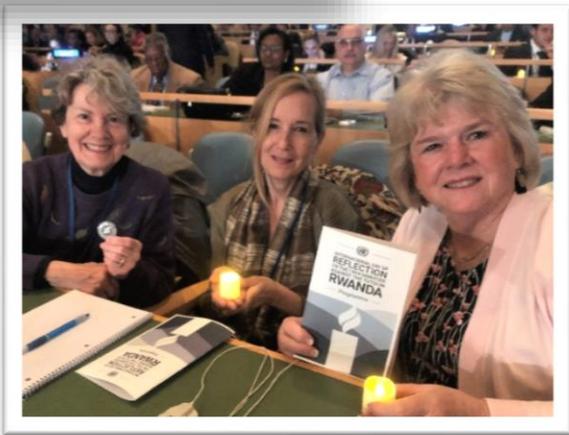


RWANDA INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION

on the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsis. The 25th anniversary included remembrances with survivors at the General Assembly and at the New York City Bar (April 17) with Jacqueline Murekatete (Genocide Survivors Foundation), Albert Gasake and others.



Monica with Zachary Kaufman and Jacqueline Murekatete at the NYC BAR



Gideon Bromberg of EcoPeace, a URI CC spoke at the UN Security Council



THE NUCLEAR PRAYER

The Beginning and the End are in your hands, O Creator of the Universe. And in our hands, you have placed the fate of this planet. We, who are tested by having both creative and destructive power in our free will, turn to you in sober fear and in intoxicating hope. We ask for your guidance and to share in your imagination in our deliberations about the use of nuclear force. Help us to lift the fog of atomic darkness that hovers so pervasively over our Earth, Your Earth, so that soon all eyes may see life magnified by your pure light. Bless all of us who wait today for your Presence and who dedicate ourselves to achieve your intended peace and rightful equilibrium on Earth. In the Name of all that is holy and all that is hoped.

Amen.

Written by The Right Reverend William E. Swing, President and Founder, URI



JUNE

ACCELERATE PEACE JUNE 26-27

URI Yearly Meeting in San Francisco

Over 400 attended !



Rev. Victor Kazanjian acknowledges **H. E. Adama Dieng**, Undersecretary General of the United Nations and Special Adviser to the Secretary General of the United Nations on the Prevention of Genocide, presenting him with the **URI Global Peacebuilder Award**.



Jonathan Granoff, Pres, Global Security Institute; **H.E. Adama Dieng**, Rev. **William Swing**, and former Sec. of State, **George P. Shultz**.



Women's Interfaith Network poses with a quilt made by Palestinian and Israeli women



Reimagining CONNECTION

JULY/AUGUST

UN CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

SALT LAKE CITY



THE 68TH
UNITED NATIONS
CIVIL SOCIETY
CONFERENCE

WORKSHOPS INCLUDED
"PROGRESSIVE RELIGION" AND
"REIMAGINING COMMUNITY FROM THE
INSIDE OUT" WITH MARTHA GALLEHUE,
SABITA GREER (BRAMA KUMARIS), BETH
BLISSMAN (LORETTO COMMUNITY) AND
DANILO PARMEGIANI (LGW) AMONG OTHERS



**KOFI ANNAN
FAITH BRIEFING**



**Audrey Kitagawa,
Azza Karam,
and Victor Kazanjian**



**UN Reps
attend NGO
Committee on
Finance
Political
Forum**

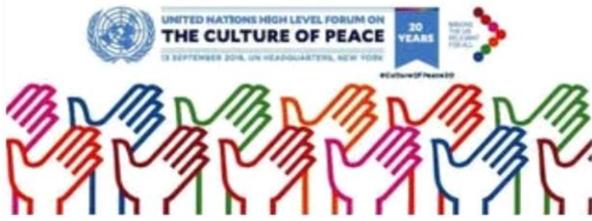


**HIROSHIMA DAY at
DAG HAMMARSKJOLD**



*Monica speaking at the Yoga Day event
for International Day of Peace*

SEPTEMBER



GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

20TH Anniversary of the UN Resolution Declaration and Programme of Action of the Culture of Peace.

Founder of A Culture of Peace, **Ambassador Chowdhury** is flanked by some of our URI-UN Reps Martha Gallahue, Sharon, Iris, Georgi and others.

The Youth Empowerment program co-sponsored by URI and Pathways for Peace



“Young people are and should be the core of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace.”

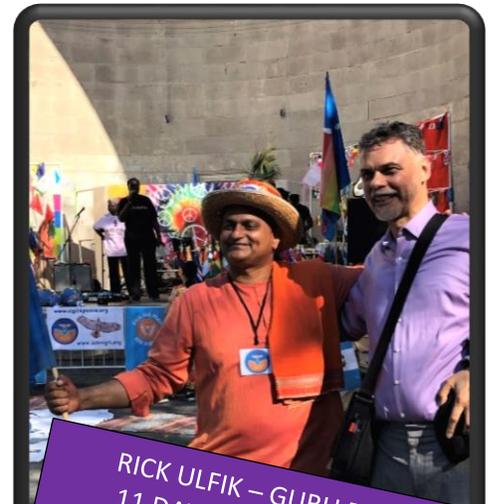
Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Founder of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace



Monica wishing well to the retiring President of the General Assembly, Maria Fernanda Espinosa (2018-19)



The 2019-2020 President of the General Assembly, Tijani Muhammad-Bande



RICK ULFIK – GURU DILEEPI
11 DAYS OF GLOBAL UNITY
CENTRAL PARK PEACE VIGIL



URI CO-SPONSORED YOUTH EVENT

Pathways to Peace/Global Movement for Peace Partnership



SEPTEMBER

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE September 21



The student observance of IDP is always filled with the inspiration of youth dedicated to making the Earth safer and more sustainable through innovation and action!



- STUDENT PEACE PROJECTS AT THE YOUTH IDP EVENT**
- Makena Mugambi: CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY
 - Salma Sahnoun: PEACE BY PROVIDING WATER
 - Olive Howland Milne: LABOUR BEHIND THE LABEL
 - Janani Shivakumar: #KICKS FOR CLIMATE ACTION



OCTOBER

B R A S I L I A



Dedication of Legion of Good Will Temple in Brasilia with Danilo and Adriana Parmegiani, US Representatives at the UN for Legion of Good Will, with family members.



URI-UN Reps, Sharon Hamilton Getz and Martha Gallahue in Brasilia visiting a school in Favella. URI co-sponsored a fundraiser contributing to musical percussion instruments for the children!



Rabbi Roger Ross / Week of Spirituality



Monica and Debra with Charles McNiell, UNEP



Mussie Hailu with members of UNEP

NOVEMBER

20 MILLION WOMEN STRONG CELEBRATES GLOBAL ACTION DAY!!

Audri Scott Williams invited music legend, Melba Moore, and other special guests to help Lift Every Voice to remember the UN's Universal Children's Day. Youth dancers and musicians filled Middle Collegiate Church, NYC, including indigenous elders and family bands.



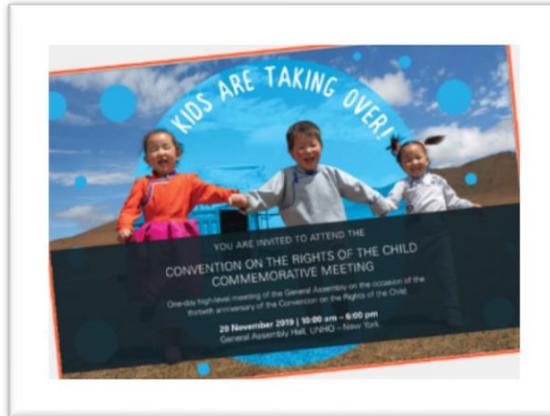
DECEMBER



Partnership for Peace and Development
MONICA WILLARD AND ELA GANDHI

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

URI-UN Facebook posts now connect to URI throughout the world! We link with the [Global Communications Bureau of URI](#) and the new Facebook page for the [Multi-Regional Network!](#) Like us on Facebook -- we are reimagining connections!



#ILOVEURI

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH

