UNITED RELIGIONS
INITIATIVE

2019-2020 IMPACT REPORT

PEACE
JUSTICE
HEALING
June 26, 2020 marks 20 years since the signing of URI’s Charter which established URI as a global interfaith peacebuilding network dedicated to cultivating peace, justice and healing by engaging people to bridge religious and cultural differences, and work together for the good of their communities and the world.

As URI launches its next 20 years, we invite you to join the movement, to deepen your journey with URI, and together to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings.

Let’s continue to build our future together.

Kiran Bali, MBE JP
URI Global Council Chairperson

The Reverend Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.
URI Executive Director

The Right Reverend William E. Swing
URI President and Founder

Our Future Together
The inspiration for the United Religions Initiative came in 1993 when The Right Rev. William E. Swing planned to host an interfaith service for the United Nations’ 50th anniversary. After being unable to meaningfully engage religious leaders, he invited community members from around the world—from all faiths, backgrounds, and traditions—to co-create a grassroots initiative for peace. In 2000, the Charter was signed and URI was born.
URI is now embarking on a journey of engagement, using its core values to shape the path that will lead it into the next 20 years. These core values of URI—our Preamble, Purpose, and Principles—are listed in the enclosed poster. URI’s member groups, called Cooperation Circles, have inspired these values from diverse religions, spiritual expressions and Indigenous traditions throughout the world. URI invites you to join with our global community in co-creating the exciting next chapter of URI’s story.

FORWARD TO THE FUTURE
Impact by Region

1,061 Cooperation Circles (CCs) in 108 Countries

AFRICA
237 CCs
33 Countries

EUROPE
61 CCs
24 Countries

NORTH AMERICA
95 CCs
2 Countries

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
88 CCs
16 Countries

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
54 CCs
8 Countries

MULTIREGION
74 CCs
Worldwide

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
59 CCs
16 Countries

ASIA
393 CCs
9 Countries

Cooperation Circles' statistics by Region as of September 2020
Impact by Action Area

People of all traditions, from more than 100 countries, joining against the forces of violence and oppression make a remarkable global impact. Together, we create the world's largest grassroots interfaith peacebuilding network with more than 1,000 member groups — and growing.
Women
URI is committed to principles of equality and issues impacting women in all aspects of society.

LEARN MORE
uri.org/women

HEALING AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION
The URI Africa Great Lakes team has been instrumental in training women leaders in the region, many of whom still suffer the trauma of genocide, abduction, and even sex slavery from recent conflicts.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE
The three Cooperation Circle leaders who have served as Chairperson on the Global Council – URI’s board of directors – have all been women. (L-R: Kiran Bali, Rita Semel and Yoland Trevino)
Trust WIN Cooperation Circle harnesses the power of sisterhood of Israeli and Palestinian women who also identify as Christians, Druze, Jews and Muslims. They come together to deepen their understanding about each other’s beliefs, and tackle service projects in their community.
YOUTH LEADING THE WAY

Over the last 20 years, the URI network has championed youth leadership development in communities around the world. The 2008 Global Assembly launched the single largest youth focused program in URI history, paving the way for further innovations in training and program development.

URI respects the wisdom of young people and works to promote youth as leaders.

LEARN MORE
uri.org/youth
DROPS INTO RIPPLES
Student Aid Drop in Bulgaria is a URI Cooperation Circle and NGO founded by medical students, distributing goods to refugee camps in the outskirts of Sofia. Today, they support other emerging NGOs in Europe, proving single drops can turn into ripples.

SHAPING TOMORROW
Founded as a social justice camp in the 1960s, Camp Anytown organizes leadership camps for thousands of youth in the Las Vegas area. Now also a URI Cooperation Circle, they challenge youth to examine their cultural and belief systems, and be more aware of their own biases, in order to become better decision-makers.
Indigenous Peoples
URI works to preserve the rights and values of Indigenous peoples everywhere.

LEARN MORE
uri.org/indigenouspeoples

DIFFERENT WORLDS COME TOGETHER
In Latin America, URI has helped create real bridges between religions and the Indigenous Cosmovision. It began as a journey: a hopeful enthusiasm to see different religions in open dialogue with Indigenous Peoples. The region continues to lead the network in working to remove barriers of ignorance that divide communities.
In 2014, Indigenous leaders from around the world gathered in San Francisco to engage in ceremony, to dream the future and to embody the global movement for peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings. Among what emerged was the Hidden Seeds Cooperation Circle, which works to keep Indigenous issues at the forefront of URI’s work and to mobilize a global response.

In 2016, a URI delegation traveled to Standing Rock Reservation in the United States to join hundreds of people of faith for an Interfaith Day of Prayer, and to lend the network’s collective voice to the cry to protect Mother Earth.
Health and Social Services
URI members work to improve health and well-being of individuals and communities.

LEARN MORE
uri.org/healthandsocialservices

STRENGTH IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS
In the midst of the anxiety COVID-19 has wrought, URI’s global community has rallied. Virtual gatherings and prayer circles were held; videos and reflections of hope shared. News of community actions and pandemic resources continue to come in, showing the strength of our network even at a time of isolation and uncertainty.
HOPE FOR CHILDREN
Hope for Palestinian Kids, a URI Cooperation Circle, utilizes educational workshops and supplies distribution to advance peace in their community. Their aim is to strengthen connections between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews, and enhance the future of Palestinian kids.

SAVING LIVES
Blood-Life Initiative is driven by the belief that “if blood has one colour, then humanity is also one.” This URI Cooperation Circle has successfully organized blood donations among young people of different faiths to help save lives in times of emergency since 2012.
Environment

URI tackles issues like climate change, access to clean water, and preventing conflicts arising from a scarcity of resources.

LEARN MORE
uri.org/environment

TOGETHER FOR WATER

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, a URI Cooperation Circle launched by UNICEF, brings together community members and faith leaders with the mission of ensuring access to clean, healthy and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene.
A GLOBAL ISSUE
URI’s Environmental Network serves as a resource and point of connection for environmentally focused Cooperation Circles. To date, more than 300 URI member groups are working on global and local environmental issues.

PLANTING FOR CHANGE
Cooperation Circles in Malawi, Nigeria, and across the continent are working together to address environmental issues through tree-planting initiatives, clean-up service projects, and sanitation seminars.
Conflict Transformation
URI members work on conflict transformation/peacebuilding at a human level, beyond stereotypes, to build foundations for lasting peace.

LEARN MORE
uri.org/peacebuilding

JOURNEY FOR PEACE
The URI Traveling Peace Academy (TPA) gathers interfaith peacebuilders for training, skill building, discussion, study, and networking to work more effectively in their communities. Since its creation, TPA has trained more than 400 peacebuilders from different countries.
PEACE THROUGH ACTION

EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME), a URI Cooperation Circle, is made up of Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists working to advance sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace in the Jordan Valley.

PREVENTING VIOLENCE - ENDING CONFLICT

Since 2001, URI Cooperation Circle Pakigdait Inc. has organized training workshops on interreligious understanding and violence prevention between Muslims and Christians in the conflict-ridden southern region of the Philippines.
IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Principle 19 Project

In a field as intangible as peacebuilding, how can you tell when efforts are working? URI set out to answer this question with its Principle 19 project, embarking on a complex measurement and analysis of peacebuilding efforts throughout its extended, diverse, global network.

Learn more at uri.org/P19

“We are committed to organizational learning and adaptation.”

— Principle 19 from the URI Charter
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

URI is launching an interactive program in which individual members can be a part of the world’s largest interfaith peacebuilding organization. We invite you to come and deepen your engagement with URI. Join this movement to create a world with more justice, healing and peace.

Sign up at uri.org/engage
VISIONARIES

In 2019, URI was selected among hundreds of nonprofits to be featured in the upcoming season of the Visionaries, the award-winning public television series hosted by acclaimed actor Sam Waterston.

“The Power of Story,” featuring some of the remarkable stories of URI members and the extraordinary work they are doing in their communities, premiered at the Circles of Light Virtual Gala in October 2020.

Learn more at uri.org/inspire
STORIES FOR PEACE

What would it sound like for the stories of a community to be told in their own voice? Visionaries, Inc. and URI aim to answer this question in partnership: creating, building and maintaining an international media initiative called Stories for Peace.

Stories for Peace will:

• Harness the power of media and the internet to deepen understanding across cultures, religions, and traditions;
• Tell stories of work and community action that honors diversity and celebrates the commonality of humankind;
• Populate the internet with positive stories of people making the world a better place.
Our Leadership

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

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Global Efficiency

Key Revenue and Expenses Information for year ended December 31, 2019*

TOTAL REVENUE**
$3,728,346

- Individuals  $1,569,708 (42%)
- Foundations/Corporations $1,259,171 (34%)
- Fundraising Event $202,658 (5%)
- Special Funds $696,809 (19%)

GLOBAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Individuals $2,017,801 (54%)
- Foundations/Corporations $1,259,171 (23%)
- Fundraising Event $202,658 (6%)
- Special Funds $696,809 (13%)

Other Expenses include:

- Global Council $306,399
- Communications $440,356
- Fundraising $420,751
- Management & General $236,569
- Education & Outreach $305,990

* Unaudited. Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.
** URI also received $1,318,974 as a donor/Board restricted contribution to the endowment, quasi-endowment, and reserves. This amount is not included in the 2019 total revenue.
Build our future together by investing in URI's global network. Be a catalyst for change and impact URI's efforts in communities around the world.

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.

**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 URI to friends and colleagues; help raise awareness.

**Media Outreach**
Boost URI’s visibility by connecting URI with local, national and international media.

Give at [uri.org/donate](http://uri.org/donate)
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.