

URI VIEWING GUIDE

FOR VISIONARIES, SEASON 24 EPISODE 6

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
[HTTPS://WWW.URI.ORG/INSPIRE](https://www.uri.org/inspire)

INTRODUCTION

Visionaries, Inc., is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to producing and distributing media that inspires individuals and communities to take action for positive social change. We are delighted that URI is featured in the 24th Season of the Visionaries documentary series available as of the summer/fall 2020. It highlights the history of URI and the work of Cooperation Circles (CCs) in the global network for peace, justice, and healing through stories of CC members, staff, and partners from different parts of the world. This video is a part of a 3-year partnership between URI, Visionaries, and The Foundation for Religious Literacy to support CCs and their storytelling capabilities.



WHAT IS URI?

URI is United Religions Initiative, a global grassroots interfaith network that cultivates peace and justice by engaging people to bridge religious and cultural differences and work together for the good of their communities and the world.

WHAT IS VISIONARIES?

Visionaries, Inc. is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to producing and distributing media that inspires individuals and communities to take action for positive social change.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THIS DOCUMENT?

This document can help you use the video to support interfaith peacebuilding work.

HOW TO USE THE FILM

Host a screening

- Host digital screenings
 - On social media as a Facebook Live feature.
 - On Zoom/Google Hangouts for meetings, conferences, fundraisers, etc.
 - On Facebook as a Watch Party, or on other social media platforms.
 - Potential audiences can include:
 - Family & friends.
 - Faith communities.
 - Clubs or community groups.
 - Individuals who you think might be interested in becoming a member of URI.
 - Individuals or groups who you'd like to partner with in your community work.
- Host in-person meetings
 - Assuming that COVID-19 has eased significantly enough for people to meet in person, people can use the film for meetings, conferences, fundraisers, etc.

Have a conversation

- Refer to the Discussion Questions below.
- Host dialogue around topics like civic engagement, grassroots work, shared values and experiences, storytelling, etc. in relation to the film.
 - Invite URI colleagues to join or facilitate the conversation with you.
- Think about the ways in which you understand collaboration and cooperation with communities of different backgrounds. What values and experiences do you share? What are some things that are different?

Connect with others

- Connect with the CCs and regions from the film (host a regional screening or community calls around the film and invite CCs as speakers).
- Find people and organizations doing work in your region or globally that addresses similar topics. Build relationships with them. Can the film help with that?
- Find faith communities, non-governmental organizations, and advocacy groups and create spaces for dialogue, brainstorming, and action. What shared actions are possible?

Make a difference

- With inspiration from Visionaries, think about some topics and ideas and develop projects about them:
 - How do you think about action in the midst of COVID-19 and beyond?
 - How can you create impact without putting peoples' health at risk?
 - How can you act virtually?
- What is possible?
 - Invite people to act individually and collectively on issues.
 - Create spaces for contemplation and mindfulness.
 - Raise funds for important causes.
 - Advocate for communities adversely impacted by current conditions.
 - Write letters, make phone calls, express your opinions to relevant officials.
 - Educate yourselves. Ezra Fairley-Collins, Coordinator of Individual Membership Development, can help with resources to do that.

VIEWER DISCRETION

Some topics covered in this documentary address difficult subjects such as gender-based conflict and inter-personal violence. We challenge you to make it understandable to audiences who may not often discuss these issues.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take a moment to reflect on what you've just watched:
 - How do you feel? How did you resonate with the stories featured in the film?
 - Was there a story that really inspired you? If so, what made it stand out?
- How does this film change your perception of the impact of grassroots work?
- How has it changed your perspective on inclusion and involvement in the interfaith movement?
- If you are a URI member, you are a part of this global network that is making change. You can connect with other members from around the world related to the work you are doing.
 - How might you do that? How does this film inspire you to act?
- Do you know anyone else who might like to see this film?

AFTER YOU'VE SEEN THE FILM, WHAT'S NEXT?

- How you can use this film to educate, inspire, and mobilize others to get involved in interfaith community-building work?
 - Host screenings that invite community members and others to participate.
 - Learn about URI's global network at uri.org.
 - Search for global stories by country or topic.
 - Learn about URI's 14 Action Areas.
 - Share the film on social media (Use the hashtag #URIVisionaries).

TELL US YOUR STORY

How can this documentary format help your community tell its story? Think of interviews, anecdotes, examples and images that you might gather to make the story come alive. Make your work come alive with URI by sending them to ezra@uri.org and we will share your work on social media and emails blasts in the network.



RESOURCES

Websites:

- United Religions Initiative: <https://www.uri.org/>
- Become a URI member: <https://www.uri.org/inspire>
- Visionaries, Inc.: <https://www.visionaries.org/>

CONTACT

Reach out to the Global Support Office to answer any of your questions, or to get started with URI:

- Isabelle Ortega-Lockwood, Director of Communications, iortega@uri.org.
- Ezra Fairley-Collins, Coordinator of Individual Membership Development, ezra@uri.org.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

General Questions

- Which Cooperation Circles are featured in the film?

Uganda:

- [Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative CC](#)
- [Action For Fundamental Change And Development](#)
- [Golden Women Vision in Uganda](#)

India:

- [Karickam International Public School CC](#)
- [Zero Limits](#)

- Are there any costs/permissions associated with using this film?

Thanks to our partnership with Visionaries Inc., the film is free for us to use in our entire network around the world. If you'd like to share this documentary out more broadly, please contact our Director of Communications, Isabelle Ortega-Lockwood, at iortega@uri.org.

- Will other videos be made about other parts of the world?

This documentary is the first episode among several to feature URI and its various CCs around the world. This is a part of a 3-year partnership that will emphasize the power of storytelling to lift up grassroots community engagement that can inspire action.

Technology and Online Resources

- In what ways can I show this film?

This film will be available in a digital format with a link. You can sign up to get that link at <https://www.uri.org/inspire>. Use the film however it supports the work you are doing. As conditions permit, you can show the film in all sorts of venues and platforms to inform and engage communities. We will be glad to help you find ways of showing the film online through Zoom calls and webinars or for any events you plan to host.

- What if I have difficulty with setting up the screening online? Is there someone I can contact?

We encourage you to contact Ezra Fairley-Collins, Coordinator of Individual Membership Development, at ezra@uri.org to get the technical and planning support that you need to show the film. He will be more than happy to help.

- How can I learn more about URI and the work it does?

You can visit our website at <https://www.uri.org/> to check out all the latest updates.

- Are there other cool videos in the Visionaries series?

Yes! Visionaries has been making films for over 25 years, highlighting hundreds of organizations from around the world. You can visit their website at <https://www.visionaries.org/> to see what other organizations are highlighted along with URI in this season and previous seasons of their shows.

- Can we share this film with others?

Absolutely! We'd love for communities around the world to watch this film. Help us spread the word by:

- Sharing our website for the film so people can sign up: <https://www.uri.org/inspire>.
- Sharing your thoughts about the film using the hashtag #URIVisionaries.
- Starting conversation with your friends, loved ones, and colleagues about the impact of grassroots work and using this film as an example of what that work can look like.
- If you're an educator, please check out our K-12 Curriculum created in collaboration with The Foundation for Religious Literacy to use in your classroom.

- Who can we contact for more information?

Contact our Director of Communications, Isabelle Ortega-Lockwood, at iortega@uri.org for more information.

