

URI MENA *sparks* uri MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



Intern Marlene

22-year old Marlene from Germany joined URI MENA and Desert Bloom as a new intern and will stay three months in the office in Amman. She studies social work with a focus on migration and globalization. She personally believes that bringing religions together helps to end religiously motivated violence. Welcome Marlene to the team!



Hello to the MENA Region

We are thrilled to introduce our first newsletter and welcome you to this exciting new chapter of our organization. This newsletter is an opportunity for us to keep you informed about the latest news, events, and initiatives. Let's connect the MENA region even more and learn from each other. Find news from the first quarter here.

Peace for All

Tunisia organized two workshops on the importance of the the importance of building bridges of understanding among people of different faiths and religions traditions. 38 participants attended the first session on February, 1st, 2023, coming from Tunisia, Congo and cote d Ivoire from Muslim, Christian and Berber traditions.



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LinkedIn now

URI MENA is now available on LinkedIn. We are going to put up a professional profile in order to connect with like minded people in the region and share work and volunteer opportunities. LinkedIn is a powerful tool for networking, connecting with other professionals, and expanding your professional contacts. It provides an opportunity to connect with people who work in your industry, potential clients or customers, and other individuals who share similar interests.



UNEP Faith for Earth

URI MENA organized a kick-off event for the UNEP Faith for Earth initiative for the Middle East and North Africa region on the 17th of October 2022 with more than 50 participants from 5 countries. During a full-day workshop in Amman, religious leaders from Jewish, Christian, Islamic and Bahá'í traditions came together with environmental activists.



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CV Writing Skills

On March 4th, URI MENA hosted a Culture Cafe on the topic of "Career Boost". In a nice atmosphere, URI members from different countries met online and in person. For example from Palestine, Morocco, Jordan, Germany and Poland. Among others were Desert Boom CC and Mercy CC.

Desert Bloom intern Oktawia covered all areas of application and interview and gave interesting tips. Here is a summary of the best help and tips for the job interview, the application and the letter of motivation. Writing Skills for Motivational Letter

- Start with an attention grabbing opening
- Use examples of your work and share details of your previous job responsibilities
- Address the recipient properly, try to find out the correct name

Ready for a job interview? Don't miss these points:

- Be always 15 minutes early to familiarize yourself with the location
- Prepare responses to common interview questions such as "What are your weaknesses?", "Why did you leave your previous job?" or "What salary expectation do you have?"
- Dress according to the company's culture
- Bring your printed CV
- Prepare questions that you want to ask them at the end. It is not a good sign if you are not interested to know more about the job.

Writing a good CV

- A CV should be a maximum of 2 pages
- Adjust the CV of the job posting
- Use active verbs like "managed", "organized", "led"

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Safe Spaces in Iraq

Creating a safe physical space to promote community interactions, healing and solidarity - Shingal Organization for Social Development (SOSD) CC- Iraq Shingal Organization for Social Development with the support of the "Recovery" Program of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is building a Community Hall. The Hall is to serve as a multiple purpose space as it will host community activities, dialogues between community leaders as well as activities and initiatives related to youth and women empowerment.



We Say No for Exclusion" A Training Course under Erasmus Plus Program

Desert Bloom participated in "We Say No for Exclusion", training course in Egypt from 20 to 27 Feb 2023. The training tackled all types of exclusion, whether it is based on gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, disability, and religion. Additionally, the training addressed violent radicalization root causes and the youth radicalization process.



Two CCs won the URI- MENA World Interfaith Harmony Week Award

URI MENA called for projects applications for the World Interfaith Harmony Week 2023 and the two winners of URI WIHW Award 2023 were Peace for All- Tunisia and Qudorat CC- Jordan. "Peace for all CC" hosted two sessions about the importance of building bridged between interfaith communities 38 participants attended the first session on February, 1st, 2023, coming from Tunisia, Congo and cote d Ivoire from Muslim, Christian and Berber traditions.



Food bank launch Yemen

Candles of Darkness CC- Yemen under Capital Municipality Youth Council, Yemen helped Yemeni Food Bank to launch Ramdani Community Kitchens project on 28 March 2023 in Sanaa Yemen. The project was supported by private sector and individual doners.



Qudorat CC launched several initiatives as plenary sessions on social and historical surroundings in order to unite, reduce differences, and fight toxic thoughts of prejudices. Ideas and projects were shared to make the communities safer and more resilient, together, with interfaith cooperations.

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Water matters - exchange in Marrakesh - Morocco

The project was co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus plus program. It aimed to find global solutions to climate challenges creating global responsibilities toward the less fortunate parts of the world for the sake of future generations. The Youth Exchange brings together participants from 8 Euro-Mediterranean countries. Participants learned how to calculate their ecological footprint and the importance of Overshoot Day. Also, they had the chance to present the environmental issues in their countries.



Peace Activist Price

Congratulations, mabruk, Mazal to Dr. Mohammed Dajani from the Wasatia CC for receiving the Simon Wiesenthal prize from the Austrian government for his peace activism against antisemitism. "Anti-Semitism is against humanity, against moral values, against democracy," said Dajani. "We cannot coexist in peace and harmony when there is hate, enmity, fear."

URI Global Leaders visit Jordan

A high-level delegation from the United Religions Initiative (URI) led by Mr. Jerry White, the Executive Director of URI has been visiting Jordan. Together we not only toured around Jordan for project visits, but also held a panel discussions with representatives from the EU, GIZ, the catholic Church and many more grassroots organisations about the UN Global Goals in our grassroots work.



The Global Support Staff team from the USA, Brazil, Argentina, Morocco, Ethiopia and Yemen came together with the local Cooperation Circles and young volunteers working in Amman to learn more about local conditions and how to grow URI. The visit to the region included several workshops, visits to local Cooperation Circle organisations and possible new collaborations. The group discussions were organised and facilitated by our regional coordinator Mamoun Khreisat in Amman.

New Cooperation Circle

Welcome Sahel-Foundation CC from Mauritania to our family. Sahel is a human rights foundation. It was founded in 2017 in Mauritania. It aims to defend human rights, support education and social peace.

Sahel's members are all Muslims. They build bridges among ethnic and indigenous diversity including traditions of Haratin, Poular, Arab, Sononke, and Morre populations.

Sahel has much in common with URI's Purpose and principles. Both respect diversity and defend human rights.