

LOCAL VOICES, GLOBAL MOVEMENT



For twenty-five years, the United Religions Initiative (URI) has grown from a visionary idea into the world's largest grassroots interfaith network, now connecting people in over 120 countries.

Every day, our Cooperation Circles (CCs) and Individual Members bring the values of dialogue, respect, and shared action into their communities, addressing the root causes of conflict and building cultures of peace. URI brings these people and efforts together, ensuring collective impact. We mobilize a diverse global network to act together and make the change that URI was created to make: a more peaceful, just, and connected world.

LOCAL VOICES, GLOBAL MOVEMENT



This Impact Report celebrates the people and partnerships that make this movement possible. It highlights the power of local leadership and the collective strength of a global network guided by shared principles. From preventing violence and protecting the Earth to empowering youth and women, URI members continue to show what is possible when communities work together with compassion and purpose.

As we look back on twenty-five years of impact, we also look ahead, with renewed commitment to strengthen the network, deepen collaboration, and expand our reach. Each story in these pages is a reminder that peacebuilding begins with local voices, and that, together, they form a global movement for change.

A white, handwritten signature of Eric Roux on a dark background.

Eric Roux
URI Global Council Chair

A white, handwritten signature of Karen Volker on a dark background.

Karen Volker
URI Executive Director

A white, handwritten signature of William E. Swing on a dark background.

The Right Reverend William E. Swing
Founder and President Emeritus of URI



25

Years

120+

Countries

1250+

Cooperation
Circles

2400+

Individual
Members

15

Regional
Offices



URI's impact is generated locally –by communities responding to their own realities- then strengthened through global connection. Because our work is decentralized, relationship-based, and often unfolds in complex or fragile contexts, capturing impact looks different from traditional top-down programs.

Many Cooperation Circles operate with limited resources, in areas where formal data collection is difficult, unsafe, or culturally inappropriate. As a result, URI measures impact through a combination of quantitative reporting, stories of change, learning reflections, and sustained engagement over time.

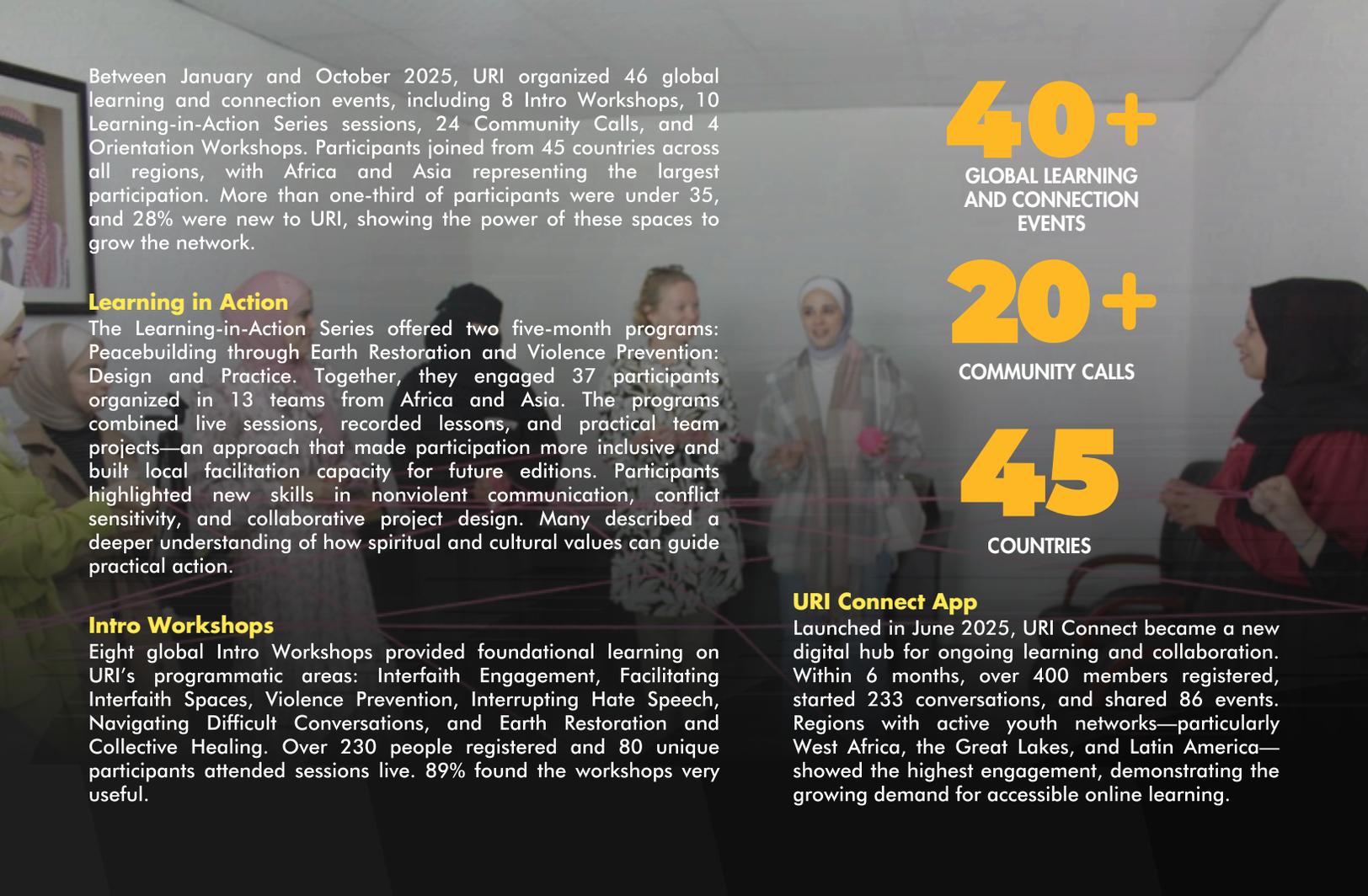
What this report reflects is both scale and depth: numbers that show reach and stories that reveal how interfaith cooperation builds trust, reduces harm, and creates more resilient communities. Together, they offer a holistic picture of a living network creating collective impact—one relationship, one community, and one action at a time.



A group of people, including men and women, are sitting in a circle on the ground under a simple wooden structure with a corrugated metal roof. They appear to be in a learning or community meeting. The background shows lush green trees and a small building. The text 'LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING' is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters on the right side of the image.

LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2025, URI's learning spaces brought together hundreds of members and partners to deepen interfaith understanding, strengthen local leadership, and advance shared action. Through online and regional workshops, interactive learning series, and orientation sessions, members across all eight regions explored how dialogue, collaboration, and spiritual wisdom can transform communities and strengthen peace.



Between January and October 2025, URI organized 46 global learning and connection events, including 8 Intro Workshops, 10 Learning-in-Action Series sessions, 24 Community Calls, and 4 Orientation Workshops. Participants joined from 45 countries across all regions, with Africa and Asia representing the largest participation. More than one-third of participants were under 35, and 28% were new to URI, showing the power of these spaces to grow the network.

Learning in Action

The Learning-in-Action Series offered two five-month programs: Peacebuilding through Earth Restoration and Violence Prevention: Design and Practice. Together, they engaged 37 participants organized in 13 teams from Africa and Asia. The programs combined live sessions, recorded lessons, and practical team projects—an approach that made participation more inclusive and built local facilitation capacity for future editions. Participants highlighted new skills in nonviolent communication, conflict sensitivity, and collaborative project design. Many described a deeper understanding of how spiritual and cultural values can guide practical action.

Intro Workshops

Eight global Intro Workshops provided foundational learning on URI's programmatic areas: Interfaith Engagement, Facilitating Interfaith Spaces, Violence Prevention, Interrupting Hate Speech, Navigating Difficult Conversations, and Earth Restoration and Collective Healing. Over 230 people registered and 80 unique participants attended sessions live. 89% found the workshops very useful.

40+

GLOBAL LEARNING
AND CONNECTION
EVENTS

20+

COMMUNITY CALLS

45

COUNTRIES

URI Connect App

Launched in June 2025, URI Connect became a new digital hub for ongoing learning and collaboration. Within 6 months, over 400 members registered, started 233 conversations, and shared 86 events. Regions with active youth networks—particularly West Africa, the Great Lakes, and Latin America—showed the highest engagement, demonstrating the growing demand for accessible online learning.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



The URI Individual Membership Program (IMP) continues to grow as a powerful gateway for people who want to live out URI's mission and values. The program offers individuals a platform for connection, learning, and contribution, complementing the work of Cooperation Circles (CCs) and strengthening URI's global network through active participation and shared purpose.

In 2025, the Individual Membership Program reached a significant milestone: over 2,100 active members - marking a 20% growth in just one year. With 405 new members joining and representation expanding to 122 countries (up from 105 in 2024), the program is rapidly becoming one of URI's most dynamic engines of global engagement. This growth reflects rising global demand for interfaith collaboration and individuals' desire to participate in collective impact through URI.

Who are Individual Members?

Individual Members are leaders, activists, youth, and people of all faiths and backgrounds who join URI to connect across cultures, share experiences, and act for peace and healing. From emerging youth leaders to experienced changemakers, they bring cultural wisdom, energy, and commitment that enrich URI's mission.

A Visionary Supporter Strengthening Global Connection

The growth and success of the Individual Membership Program have been made possible through the generosity and vision of Mrs. Jill H. Kramer, a long-time supporter and champion of URI's mission. Her commitment to interfaith collaboration and grassroots empowerment helped launch and sustain this program, opening the door for individuals around the world to engage directly with URI's global network.

Thanks to Jill's support, thousands of individuals now have the opportunity to connect, learn, and act for peace as part of a global family committed to justice, healing, and cooperation across differences. Her belief in the power of individual engagement continues to shape URI's future and expand its collective impact worldwide.



Thank you, Jill.

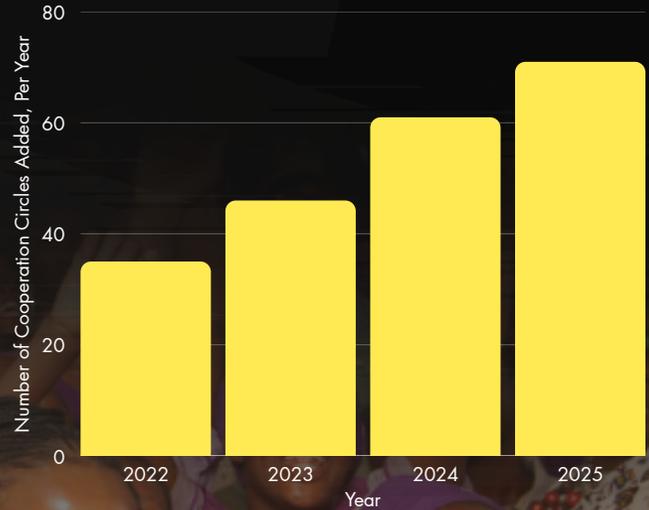
COOPERATION CIRCLES



The growth of URI's network continues to reflect the power and relevance of interfaith collaboration at the grassroots level. In 2025, URI's network grew by 71 new Cooperation Circles (CCs) compared to 61 in 2024, 46 in 2023, and 35 in 2022 — demonstrating steady growth over the past three years .

This upward trend demonstrates both the network's vitality and the growing global demand for spaces where communities can work together across faith lines to address local challenges. The increase also highlights the collective efforts of Regional Coordinators, Trustees, and existing CCs who mentor new groups through the membership process.

Each new Cooperation Circle brings unique cultural, spiritual, and social perspectives to URI's global family, strengthening its capacity to address local challenges through shared action and global solidarity.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT

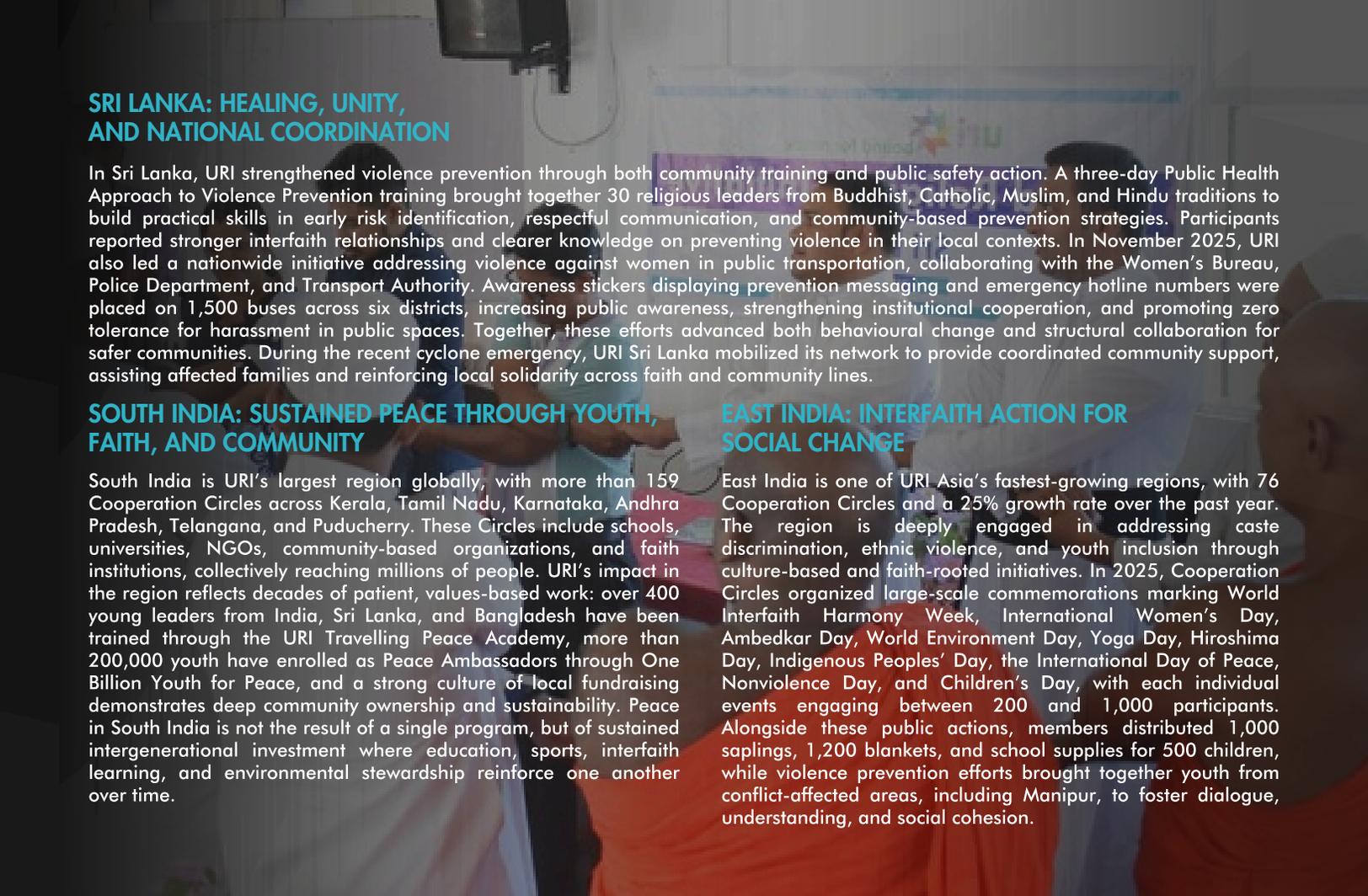
Asia is one of URI's most dynamic and influential regions, home to ancient faith traditions, rapidly growing youth populations, and communities working on the frontlines of religiously motivated violence, climate crises, and social fragmentation. Across URI Asia, URI's Cooperation Circles translate shared global values into sustained local action to promote enduring, daily, interfaith cooperation, end religiously motivated violence, and create cultures of peace, justice, and healing.

What distinguishes URI in Asia is not short-term programming, but long-term presence, trusted relationships, local leadership, and a connective tissue that links grassroots action to a global movement for peace.

NORTH AND WEST INDIA: REBUILDING TRUST, STRENGTHENING NETWORKS

In the past year, URI began rebuilding local infrastructure to strengthen support for Cooperation Circles across North and West India, reactivating a wide and diverse network spanning both urban and rural communities. The region currently includes 74 Cooperation Circles in North India and 27 in West India, with three new Circles formed and six more in active engagement. In 2025, URI facilitated 24 in-person CC visits, 10 monthly online meetings, and three regional cluster gatherings. Through this work, URI has played a catalytic role by reconnecting isolated Circles, nurturing local leadership, and linking grassroots initiatives with national and international partners.





SRI LANKA: HEALING, UNITY, AND NATIONAL COORDINATION

In Sri Lanka, URI strengthened violence prevention through both community training and public safety action. A three-day Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention training brought together 30 religious leaders from Buddhist, Catholic, Muslim, and Hindu traditions to build practical skills in early risk identification, respectful communication, and community-based prevention strategies. Participants reported stronger interfaith relationships and clearer knowledge on preventing violence in their local contexts. In November 2025, URI also led a nationwide initiative addressing violence against women in public transportation, collaborating with the Women's Bureau, Police Department, and Transport Authority. Awareness stickers displaying prevention messaging and emergency hotline numbers were placed on 1,500 buses across six districts, increasing public awareness, strengthening institutional cooperation, and promoting zero tolerance for harassment in public spaces. Together, these efforts advanced both behavioural change and structural collaboration for safer communities. During the recent cyclone emergency, URI Sri Lanka mobilized its network to provide coordinated community support, assisting affected families and reinforcing local solidarity across faith and community lines.

SOUTH INDIA: SUSTAINED PEACE THROUGH YOUTH, FAITH, AND COMMUNITY

South India is URI's largest region globally, with more than 159 Cooperation Circles across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Puducherry. These Circles include schools, universities, NGOs, community-based organizations, and faith institutions, collectively reaching millions of people. URI's impact in the region reflects decades of patient, values-based work: over 400 young leaders from India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh have been trained through the URI Travelling Peace Academy, more than 200,000 youth have enrolled as Peace Ambassadors through One Billion Youth for Peace, and a strong culture of local fundraising demonstrates deep community ownership and sustainability. Peace in South India is not the result of a single program, but of sustained intergenerational investment where education, sports, interfaith learning, and environmental stewardship reinforce one another over time.

EAST INDIA: INTERFAITH ACTION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

East India is one of URI Asia's fastest-growing regions, with 76 Cooperation Circles and a 25% growth rate over the past year. The region is deeply engaged in addressing caste discrimination, ethnic violence, and youth inclusion through culture-based and faith-rooted initiatives. In 2025, Cooperation Circles organized large-scale commemorations marking World Interfaith Harmony Week, International Women's Day, Ambedkar Day, World Environment Day, Yoga Day, Hiroshima Day, Indigenous Peoples' Day, the International Day of Peace, Nonviolence Day, and Children's Day, with each individual events engaging between 200 and 1,000 participants. Alongside these public actions, members distributed 1,000 saplings, 1,200 blankets, and school supplies for 500 children, while violence prevention efforts brought together youth from conflict-affected areas, including Manipur, to foster dialogue, understanding, and social cohesion.



25 Years in Action

Religious reps. from all nations gather at the UN's 50th Anniversary at Grace Cathedral, sparking an idea for a "United Religions".

URI signs its Charter in Pittsburgh and at the UN Headquarters in New York City.

URI expands its accreditation to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

URI's Traveling Peace Academy is selected by the UN Alliance of Civilizations as one of the most innovative and successful initiatives promoting mutual understanding.

URI starts sending youth representatives/ambassadors to participate in UN events.

URI enters a bright future with many new UN partnerships on the horizon.



Bishop Swing hires a small staff in San Francisco, CA, and the URI team begins collaborative work with various professionals.

URI becomes an NGO affiliated with the UN Department of Public Information.

Expanding cooperation with the UN: URI and the UN jointly host nine events.

Interfaith Mediation Centre, a URI Cooperation Circle in Kaduna, Nigeria, wins the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Grand Prize.

Faiths Together Uganda, a URI Cooperation Circle in Africa, receives third prize for the World Interfaith Harmony Week contest.

URI celebrates its 15th anniversary together with the United Nations' 70th anniversary at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, CA.

Across decades of conflict and change, people have shown that cooperation is not an ideal; it is a proven method for solving real problems. URI carries this truth forward, offering a structure where shared principles become practical action. Much of this work happens quietly, often unseen, yet it changes lives every day. URI shines light on these local successes, communities preventing violence, restoring ecosystems, protecting rights, and bridging divides, showing that peace is achievable when people work together.

URI is more than a network; it is a way of life. It grows through trust, dialogue, and shared experience. A single project becomes a circle, a circle becomes a network, and networks connect to create collective impact and transformation.



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

OUR PATH FORWARD (2025-2030)

In 2025, URI began implementing its new Strategic Framework (2025–2030), designed to sharpen focus while honoring the strength of our grassroots network.

The framework aligns URI’s global, regional, and local efforts around shared priorities:

- growing & increasing vitality and visibility of the network,
- cultivating learning and collaboration,
- advancing direct social impact by focusing on violence prevention and Earth restoration.

It provides a common compass for action—helping Cooperation Circles, Individual Members, staff, and partners work toward collective impact while remaining responsive to local contexts.

URI organized Accelerate Peace Conference at Stanford University, USA - gathering activists, policy makers, academicians from around the world

Support for URI’s global grassroots response during the COVID-19

Violence Prevention Training and Indigenous Gathering in Honduras



URI receives a three year grant to Measure the Impact of its Network from Porticus Foundation

URI receives Impact Assessment Final Report and Global Gathering in Rwanda

URI’s 25th Anniversary
Global Gathering in Merida, Mexico

After twenty-five years of movement-building, URI stands on solid foundations: a trusted global network, proven grassroots leadership, and deep community relationships. In 2025, we began intentionally strengthening the infrastructure needed to scale impact and sustain growth. Investments in learning systems, digital tools, regional coordination, and partnership pathways are enabling URI to support more communities, amplify local leadership, and connect efforts across regions. This shift marks a critical transition, from building a movement to strengthening the systems that allow that movement to grow, collaborate, and deliver impact at greater scale.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT

URI Africa connects and supports hundreds of grassroots groups working across the continent to promote interfaith understanding, peacebuilding, and sustainable development. Through partnerships, dialogue, and community action, URI Africa empowers local leaders to address conflict, prevent violence, and build cultures of peace, justice, and healing in their communities.

The region is organized into four zones — West Africa, Great Lakes, Horn of Africa, and Southern Africa — each fostering collaboration and sharing of best practices across diverse faith and cultural traditions.

URI HORN OF AFRICA - WEAVING PEACE, DIGNITY, AND HOPE

URI's Horn of Africa network delivered measurable grassroots impact across youth engagement, environmental action, women's leadership, and peacebuilding. In Djibouti, 200 youth were trained as peace ambassadors through participatory education programs in schools and colleges. Environmental initiatives engaged over 50 students and teachers per school tree-planting activity, mobilized over 50 volunteers in community clean-up campaigns, and reached over 60 students through environmental education sessions. In Somalia, more than 80 individuals participated regularly in peace and resilience programs despite fragile conditions. In Assamo, over 40 rural women were trained, strengthening their leadership and participation in community planning. These 2025 results reflect expanding reach, strengthened local leadership, and sustained interfaith cooperation across the region.

287
Cooperation Circles

34
Countries



URI GREAT LAKES - PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

In a region where violent extremism threatens social cohesion and human security, URI Great Lakes has emerged as a recognized leader in prevention and interruption. In partnership with UNODC and URI Global Support Office, URI implemented a Violence Prevention and CC Skilling Program focused on addressing violent extremism.

As a result:

- At least 20 CCs strengthened their capacity to prevent and respond to violent extremism
- Over 300 participants engaged through 6 workshops and 4 trainings - Tensions between Salafi and Sunni Muslim communities were reduced in at least three districts in Uganda, alongside improved Muslim-Christian relations
- Four CCs successfully mobilized additional funding through new partnerships for co-implementation

URI's leadership in Uganda has been formally recognized at the national level. Today, URI represents civil society organizations as Chair of the National Counter-Terrorism Subcommittee, and is a trusted partner of UNODC in addressing violent extremism through interfaith violence prevention mechanisms.

In 2025, URI Great Lakes partnered with Filantropia, Sufi Women's Organization, FINGO, and the Muslim Centre for Justice and Law to strengthen 15 CCs' capacity to address violent extremism, gender-based violence, and election-related conflict through community-based reporting and skills training. The initiative reached over 80 participants and trained 120 women in Eastern Uganda on property rights, helping prevent domestic violence and restore access to land. It also enabled 30 girls to return to school and supported 70 women in starting small-scale businesses, improving household income and education for their children.





Our holistic “URI health approach” helps us grow our abilities and activate the whole network for meaningful collective impact.

We integrate the best of public health knowledge, ancestral and religious wisdom, and extensive experience in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, restorative justice, and trauma healing.

Religious, spiritual, and indigenous peoples play a key role in cultivating nonviolent, peaceful, and just communities.

As a global interfaith network, URI is uniquely positioned to address the challenges of religiously motivated violence.

Together, building on the relationships of trust, care, and compassion within our diverse communities, we have the power and the capacity to use our influence to intervene: to prevent conflicts from escalating to violence, changing cultural norms that justify violence, and facilitating the transformation of violent conflict systems that destroy or degrade our human and ecological communities.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

In 2025, URI strengthened its network-wide focus on preventing violence through education, collaboration, and practical training. From local interventions to global learning spaces, members demonstrated that violence can be interrupted and transformed when communities act together, guided by spiritual and cultural wisdom.

The Intro to Violence Prevention Workshop was one of six global introductory sessions in 2025, drawing participants from 45 countries. The session focused on understanding violence as a behavior that can be prevented through interreligious, cultural, and traditional engagement. Participants learned to design community dialogue processes and campaigns that promote reconciliation and peace.

As one participant shared, “I learned how people from different beliefs come together to ensure peace in the community.”

The Violence Prevention: Learning in Action Series launched in July 2025 as a five-month program running parallel to the Earth Restoration series. The training, consisting of five sessions, guides participants to examine their own contexts, identify root causes of violence, and co-design spiritually grounded, community-based solutions.

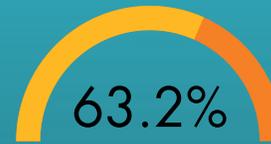
URI Violence Prevention Survey 2025

A network-wide survey collected data from members who had personally intervened to prevent or de-escalate violence. All respondents (100%) reported direct intervention—either individually (36.8%) or collectively (63.2%)—with 42.1% addressing imminent violence and 42.1% tackling root causes.

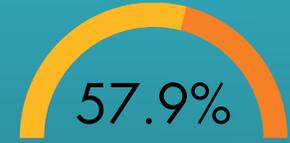


Of URI Members asked about intervening to prevent or de-escalate violence, 100% reported intervening

What type of activities did URI members report they did as community interventions to prevent or de-escalate violence?



63% of asked URI members reported doing activities that contribute to **changing attitudes toward violence**



57.9% of asked URI members said they are **facilitating dialogue and mediation**



57% of asked URI members reported doing activities that contribute to **Raising community awareness**



52% of asked URI members reported doing activities that contribute to **Involving community or religious leaders**

Outcomes showed tangible results: 27.8% successfully stopped violence from happening, and another 27.8% achieved long-term conflict transformation by addressing root causes and fostering healing.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT



LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN

URI Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) brings together 73 Cooperation Circles and more than 100 Individual Members across the region, united in advancing interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding, and social transformation. The region has seen remarkable growth in 2025, exceeding its membership goals and launching impactful initiatives such as the Youth Peace Leadership Program, Women in Action Workshops, and Violence Prevention Through Art projects. URI LAC's work highlights the region's deep commitment to gender equality, youth empowerment, Indigenous wisdom, and the creation of cultures of peace and justice.





VIOLENCE PREVENTION THROUGH ART – LED BY CC DESCENDIENTES DE GUATEMAYA

This project used art as a tool for peace education and community healing. It engaged 97 participants, including 10 women and 3 teachers, who were trained to promote nonviolence and dialogue in their schools and neighborhoods. Through creative expression, the project helped children and youth understand the impact of violence and empowered local leaders to foster safer, more compassionate communities.

WOMEN LEADERS FOR A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

Gathering 22 women from four Cooperation Circles across Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Venezuela, this regional workshop focused on building facilitation and leadership skills to address gender-based violence. It created a supportive network of women leaders committed to advancing peace and equality in their communities. The initiative also developed a new cohort of trained facilitators, strengthening URI's ongoing work in violence prevention and women's empowerment.

YOUTH PEACE LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Bringing together 10 youth leaders from six countries, this year-long training program equipped participants with tools for peacebuilding, project management, and community organizing. Graduates implemented 10 local projects that reached over 650 people, addressing issues from environmental protection to conflict resolution. The program fostered a new generation of interfaith youth leaders driving transformation across Latin America and the Caribbean.

EARTH RESTORATION

Healing the Earth, Healing Our Communities

In 2025, URI deepened its commitment to restoring balance between people and the planet through learning, collaboration, and community-led action. Across regions, members demonstrated how care for the Earth is inseparable from care for one another—showing that ecological healing and social healing must go hand in hand.

URI's Earth Restoration community continues to grow regionally and through global platforms like Gathering for Earth and the Eco-Learning System. Together, members are advancing nature-centered, intergenerational, and Indigenous-led projects that connect environmental care with peacebuilding—living out the principle that healing the Earth means healing ourselves.

Earth Communities

The concept of Earth Communities helps us connect human and ecological well-being. These initiatives reflect URI's long-term goal to be recognized as a leading advocate for the rights of nature, integrating Indigenous wisdom and community leadership.

Examples of Earth Communities in action:

Water Scarcity & Peacebuilding” (Shanthi Sena CC) - Sri Lanka



Canal renovation in Vavuniya District restored access to water for farming and strengthened interfaith trust among Tamil, Muslim, and other communities, with local government participation.

Agroecology for Biodiversity - East India



Six rural CCs engaged in agroecology training, establishing pollinator gardens and herbal cultivation that both preserve biodiversity and generate local income—demonstrating sustainable, community-driven restoration.

“100,000 Youth for Water” (Six CCs) - Brazil



A national intergenerational initiative reaffirming that water is sacred and a universal human right. Activities included the Festival das Águas, combining ceremony, education, and advocacy for water protection.

Gathering for Earth

The Gathering for Earth series remained a cornerstone of URI's Earth Restoration work. This monthly meeting brings together members and Cooperation Circles to share stories, rituals, and practical tools for ecological care.

In 2025, the Gathering for Earth engaged an estimated 300 participants. Seven sessions featured CC-led presentations from Kenya, Puerto Rico, Brazil, India, and others, while five gatherings were co-led with Indigenous members from different regions, advancing URI's 2030 goal of sharing Indigenous knowledge across the network.

Earth Restoration Learning

The Intro to Earth Restoration and Collective Healing workshop was offered twice in March 2025 in two time zones, helping participants explore the spiritual and cultural dimensions of ecological work. Participants reflected on the interconnection between environmental and social healing, and many committed to taking action—ranging from initiating community-based restoration projects to integrating traditional knowledge into conservation.

The five-month Learning in Action Series (July–November 2025) provided an in-depth framework for teams to design and implement local projects linking peacebuilding and ecological restoration. The program encouraged accountability and collaboration, requiring participants to form teams and commit to practical outcomes. Requests for Spanish and Arabic-language offerings highlighted the growing global interest.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT



60
Cooperation Circles

23
Countries

Across Europe, where histories, identities, and faith traditions intersect in complex ways, United Religions Initiative (URI) Europe continues to demonstrate that interfaith cooperation is not only possible, it is essential.

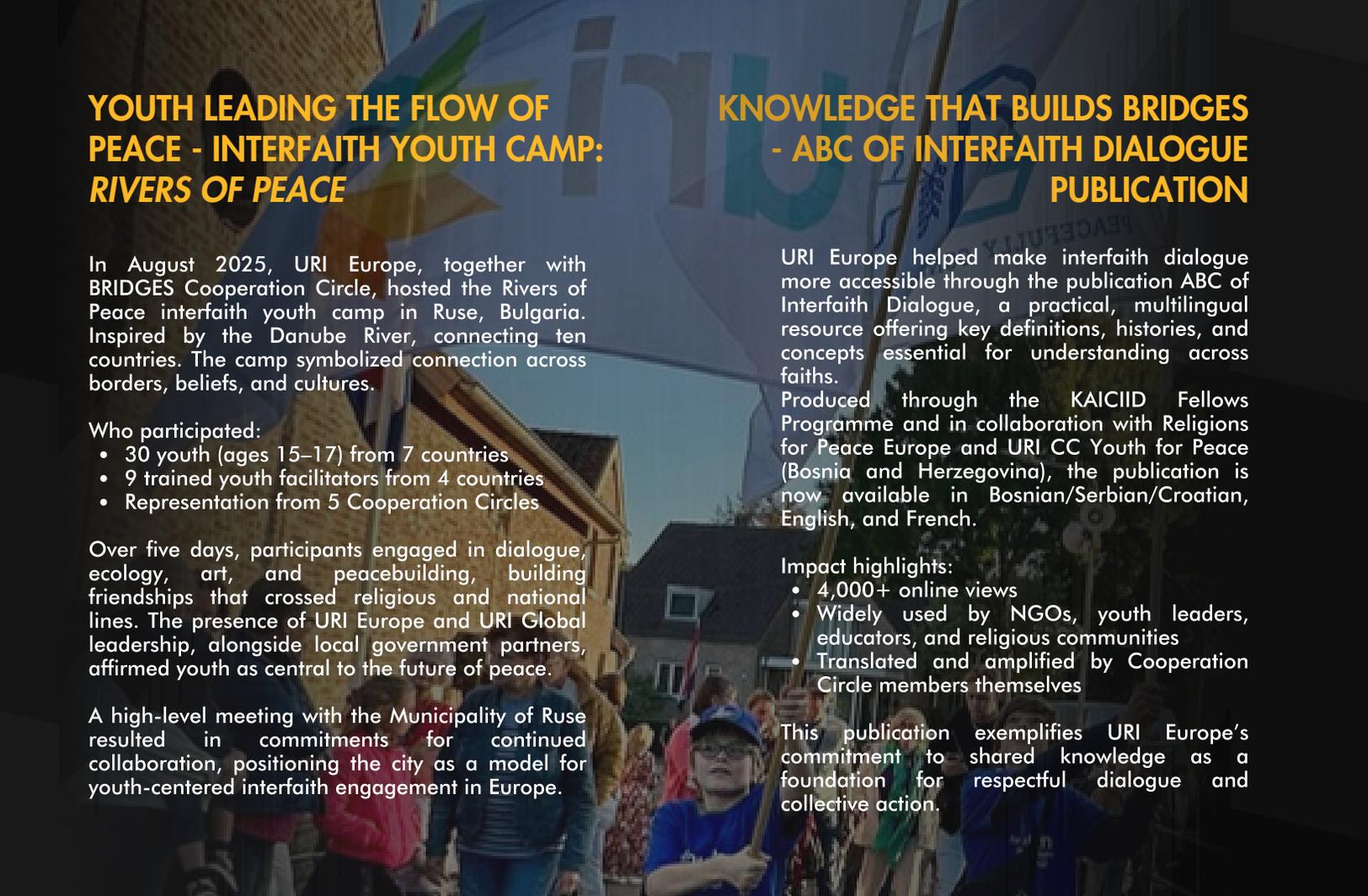
In 2025, URI Europe served as a vibrant connector of people and communities, strengthening resilience, amplifying youth leadership, and cultivating spaces where dialogue leads to action.

This year's work reflects the heart of URI's purpose: promoting enduring, daily interfaith cooperation; preventing religiously motivated violence; and creating cultures of peace, justice, and healing for all.

Europe at a Glance

- 60 Cooperation Circles across the region
- 122 Individual Members, reflecting 60% growth in one year
- 5 new Cooperation Circles and 74 new Individual Members welcomed





YOUTH LEADING THE FLOW OF PEACE - INTERFAITH YOUTH CAMP: RIVERS OF PEACE

In August 2025, URI Europe, together with BRIDGES Cooperation Circle, hosted the Rivers of Peace interfaith youth camp in Ruse, Bulgaria. Inspired by the Danube River, connecting ten countries. The camp symbolized connection across borders, beliefs, and cultures.

Who participated:

- 30 youth (ages 15–17) from 7 countries
- 9 trained youth facilitators from 4 countries
- Representation from 5 Cooperation Circles

Over five days, participants engaged in dialogue, ecology, art, and peacebuilding, building friendships that crossed religious and national lines. The presence of URI Europe and URI Global leadership, alongside local government partners, affirmed youth as central to the future of peace.

A high-level meeting with the Municipality of Ruse resulted in commitments for continued collaboration, positioning the city as a model for youth-centered interfaith engagement in Europe.

KNOWLEDGE THAT BUILDS BRIDGES - ABC OF INTERFAITH DIALOGUE PUBLICATION

URI Europe helped make interfaith dialogue more accessible through the publication ABC of Interfaith Dialogue, a practical, multilingual resource offering key definitions, histories, and concepts essential for understanding across faiths.

Produced through the KAICIID Fellows Programme and in collaboration with Religions for Peace Europe and URI CC Youth for Peace (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the publication is now available in Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian, English, and French.

Impact highlights:

- 4,000+ online views
- Widely used by NGOs, youth leaders, educators, and religious communities
- Translated and amplified by Cooperation Circle members themselves

This publication exemplifies URI Europe's commitment to shared knowledge as a foundation for respectful dialogue and collective action.



Young Peacebuilders Driving Global Connection and Action

In 2025, URI's youth initiatives deepened global connections, built leadership, and strengthened the network's vitality through innovative spaces for dialogue, learning, and collaboration. Across regions, young people stepped forward to lead, organize, and represent URI in global platforms—making youth engagement one of the strongest drivers of URI's collective impact.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Youth Connection Cafés

The Youth Connection Cafés (YCCs) created spaces for young people from different regions to connect, learn, and share experiences. Six Cafés were hosted in 2025, each led by a different Cooperation Circle, offering visibility to their work and fostering global connection.

A total of 88 participants from 27 countries took part, with 30 first-time attendees and 20% returning participants, showing growing engagement and commitment.

The Cafés became a learning circle where young people met new peers, explored interfaith and intercultural understanding, and built intergenerational solidarity. One participant from Indonesia, after meeting a peer from Djibouti, shared: “I’d never met anyone from Djibouti before. I was surprised at how much we have in common.” Another participant reflected, “The testimonials from both Christians and Muslims were so helpful. It’s helping me believe more in peacebuilding.”

The impact of these exchanges continues beyond the calls. After participating, one member from Djibouti began offering French–English translation for URI events, leading to the creation of the Volunteer Translators Circle—a direct outcome of youth connection in action.

31 young people represented URI at global conferences in 2025, demonstrating the depth and leadership of URI’s youth network and opportunities for growth, learning and networking for youth members of the URI network.

2025 URI Youth Challenge

The URI Youth Challenge ran for its second year, inviting young people to take part in simple, meaningful weekly actions inspired by URI’s Purpose and Strategic Framework. Launched on International Youth Day, the challenge encouraged participants to step beyond comfort zones and reflect on faith, peace, Earth care, and healing.

The 2025 URI Youth Challenge guided participants through four weekly themes—Interfaith Cooperation and Action, Ending Religiously Motivated Violence, Earth Restoration: Beat Plastic Pollution, and Cultures of Peace, Justice, and Healing—each inspiring reflection and action rooted in URI’s Purpose and Strategic Framework.

The final task—an intergenerational dialogue—was identified as the most meaningful, with 75% of participants naming it as the highlight. Youth reflected on how conversations with elders helped them “receive a legacy and see themselves as the continuity of their communities.”

URI Youth at Global Events

Fourteen youth from Kenya, South Africa, Malawi, and Zimbabwe participated in the G20 Interfaith Youth Forum in Cape Town, while ten youth from nine countries spoke at the Charter for Compassion Youth Conference. Youth from Nigeria and Ethiopia attended the Stirling Foundation Youth Forum in Azerbaijan, a URI intern joined the UN Youth for Human Rights Summit in New York, two youth represented URI at the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, and two more will participate in UNEA in Kenya—demonstrating strong youth leadership and global engagement across the network.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT



MIDDLE EAST AND
NORTH AFRICA

The URI Middle East and North Africa (URI MENA) remains a vibrant force for peace, cooperation, and healing across one of the world's most diverse and complex regions. As the trusted regional hub of the global URI network, URI MENA CCs serve as engines of dialogue, reconciliation, youth voice, women's empowerment, and community service within their own contexts. Across the past year, URI MENA reveals a dynamic array of peacebuilding, empowerment and engagement initiatives that bring tangible benefits to communities:

- Youth empowerment and digital literacy activities, including International Youth Day forums and ethical storytelling workshops.
- Women's empowerment and support networks, from psychosocial care to capacities-building sessions.
- Environmental peace actions, such as SDG workshops and sustainability training.
- Celebrations of World Interfaith Harmony Week and other global observances that deepen shared purpose and strengthen cross-community bonds.

113

Cooperation Circles

15

Countries

YOUTH AND WOMEN TURNING STORIES INTO SHARED STRENGTH

Youth leaders and women activists remain central to URI MENA's impact story. Across Cooperation Circles, young people are mobilized to lead digital awareness campaigns, capacity training, and cross-border dialogue exchanges, forging new pathways for collaboration. Simultaneously, women's networks foster solidarity, mutual respect, and shared leadership at local and regional tables. These efforts collectively build bridges where division once prevailed.

As one woman leader expressed during a community gathering:

“When women from different faiths sit together, we don't start with theology, we start with life. From there, trust grows naturally.”

Youth voices echo this transformation:

“URI taught me that peace doesn't start with agreements, it starts with relationships.”

Dr. Hiba Haddadin, Director General of the Equality for Training and Human Rights CC, underscored the importance of the “combating hate speech workshop in Madaba, Jordan” saying:

“In a world of increasing divisions, the role of youth becomes crucial in building bridges of communication rather than walls of hate. Empowering youth with the tools to counter hate speech is an investment in a more peaceful and just future. This workshop reaffirms our commitment to supporting them to become leaders of dialogue and pluralism in their communities.”

URI MENA's regional assembly and exchanges, including partnerships with Euro-Med and Erasmus+ programs, deepen the network's outreach, doctrine-neutral learning, and access to global opportunities, particularly for youth and social workers

Importantly, URI MENA's work resonates with broader regional movements toward peace and resilience. By connecting grassroots action with structural conversations on peace, social cohesion, and community prevention vital themes across MENA civil society, the network amplifies its influence beyond its immediate constituencies.



STRUCTURE OF URI

URI's structure connects grassroots peacebuilders to global leadership, ensuring that decision-making remains inclusive and grounded in local realities.

GLOBAL COUNCIL

serves as URI's governing body. Its members—Trustees—are elected from eight regions through the Trustee Selection Process, making URI's leadership democratic and representative. The Council provides strategic oversight, approves new Cooperation Circles, strengthens leadership, and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to advance URI's mission.

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

is composed of three elected Trustees, the Regional Coordinator, and regional staff. Every region has an RLT. They guide regional strategies, coordinate gatherings and events, and ensure that the voices of Cooperation Circles and Individual Members are heard and connected to the global network.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL STAFF

coordinate programs, campaigns, and partnerships while supporting members' daily work. They connect people across countries and regions, help build capacity, and amplify stories of impact.

Together, the Global Council, RLTs, and global and regional staff form a structure designed to serve members, strengthen grassroots leadership, and advance URI's shared purpose.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT



A Region Defined by Diversity, Innovation, and Global Reach, URI Multiregion is unlike any other region in the network. Spanning continents, cultures, and faith traditions, it is home to Cooperation Circles that do not belong to a single geographic region but instead gather around shared values, global issues, and thematic commitments.

With 82 Cooperation Circles and new partners joining each year, the Multiregion stands as a vibrant hub for cross-border collaboration, youth leadership, interfaith innovation, and global advocacy.

In 2025, the Multiregion significantly strengthened its connectivity, leadership capacity, and youth empowerment work, while elevating URI's mission across global spaces—from Kuala Lumpur to Cape Town, from online internship cohorts to in-person peacebuilding forums.



A TURNING POINT FOR A YOUNG PEACEBUILDER: EMMA'S STORY

In August 2025, Emma Solé, a young peacebuilder from Breaking Walls Cooperation Circle, represented URI Multiregion at the URI Europe Youth Camp in Bulgaria. For Emma, the experience became a turning point — transforming her understanding of interfaith work and her sense of belonging to the global URI family. Emma's story captures the heart of URI's mission, showing how exposure to interfaith experiences transforms individual awareness into lifelong commitment. Her journey reflects the power of URI's youth engagement work: connecting young people across regions and equipping them to become facilitators of peace in their own communities.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: EMPOWERING EMERGING PEACEBUILDERS

The 2025 Multiregion Internship Program nurtured two young leaders through a structured, three-month experience designed to build skills in: interfaith collaboration, peacebuilding, and community organizing. Interns supported regional operations, strengthened outreach, and added capacity to core Multiregion initiatives. This program is becoming a model for other regions—showing how small, well-designed investments in young leaders can scale impact across continents.

At the beginning of August, I had the privilege of participating in the United Religions Initiative (URI) Youth Camp for the European Region in Bulgaria. Before this experience, I knew very little about how this organization worked. Yet, as a representative of Breaking Walls (now a new Cooperation Circle of URI Multiregion), I left deeply inspired by the purpose and dedication of this global network.

Through the camp, I came to understand the profound importance of URI's mission. Today, our world continues to face conflicts, and sadly, some of them are still fueled by religious differences. This makes URI's work all the more essential: reminding us that while we may practice different religions and have different beliefs, we are all connected by a shared bond of humanity.

What struck me most was witnessing diverse groups from across Europe coming together with one common goal: to foster peace. Interfaith dialogue, I realized, is not just an abstract idea but a powerful practice. It allows us to look beyond our differences and recognize the universal values that unite us: love, friendship, and faith.

I return from this camp not only with gratitude but also with a renewed commitment to building bridges of understanding in my own community. Reiterating also, how important are the works of organisations like Breaking Walls and URI, which create safe spaces for dialogue and empower youth.



— Emma Solé, Spain, Breaking Walls Cooperation Circle, 4–8 August 2025



PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration is at the heart of URI's impact. By working with faith-based organizations, civil society groups, academic institutions, local governments, and international partners, URI expands its reach and deepens its effectiveness. Together with our partners, we build shared initiatives, strengthen communities, and amplify the voices of those working for peace, justice, and healing around the world.

URI is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is a member of the UN Multi-Faith Advisory Council, and has long-standing partnerships with several other UN agencies.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS IN 2025

Crossing Faiths

In 2025, URI partnered with Crossing Faiths to produce four podcast episodes that amplified grassroots interfaith voices from the URI network. The series increased public visibility of URI's work, shared practical examples of dialogue and violence prevention, and reached new audiences beyond the network through accessible, story-driven media.

KAICIID

URI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with KAICIID in 2025, marking a major step in institutional collaboration. This partnership connects URI's grassroots network with KAICIID's global platforms, strengthening joint learning, credibility, and opportunities for coordinated interreligious action. This builds on an earlier MOU between KAICIID and URI Africa.

Pace e Bene

URI collaborated with Pace e Bene through a joint Nonviolence Campaign initiative, highlighting URI-aligned actions focused on nonviolence toward self, others, communities, and the Earth. The campaign elevated member-led violence prevention work and positioned nonviolence as a practical, values-based response to conflict.

Arigatou International

URI partnered with Arigatou International on Stand Up for Children in War, supporting interfaith advocacy for children affected by conflict, together with 130+ organizations. The partnership aligned URI's community-based work with global child-rights efforts, reinforcing the role of interfaith cooperation in protecting children and promoting peace.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT



SOUTHEAST ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC

The Southeast Asia and the Pacific region brings together a diverse and dynamic network of Cooperation Circles and Individual Members working across cultures, faiths, and national borders.

URI SEAPac focuses on strengthening grassroots interfaith cooperation, supporting youth leadership, preventing violence, and responding to community needs in complex social and political contexts.

In 2025, the region also piloted the Community Liaison Program, placing trained local organizers in select countries to introduce new groups to interfaith collaboration, mentor emerging leaders, and connect community action to URI's global network. Together, these efforts contribute to network growth, shared learning, and locally rooted impact across Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

56
Cooperation Circles

8
Countries

SEAPAC COMMUNITY LIAISON PROGRAM

In 2025, URI piloted the Community Liaison Program in Southeast Asia and the Pacific as a country-level approach to strengthening grassroots interfaith cooperation and accelerating network growth. Active in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, and the Philippines, the program placed trained local organizers within communities to introduce interfaith collaboration as a practical tool for social cohesion, violence prevention, and community resilience. Through this work, new community groups took first steps into interfaith dialogue and joint action, while individuals who had been working independently gained mentorship, skills, and connection to peers across the region.

Consistent accompaniment was central to the program's results. Weekly Liaison Circles created a structured space for mentoring, peer learning, accountability, and coordination, enabling rapid exchange of ideas and support across borders. As a result, participants began taking on leadership roles as facilitators, translators, and organizers, and effective approaches—such as youth dialogue formats and nonviolence trainings—were adapted and replicated in new contexts. The SEAPac pilot demonstrated that locally rooted leadership, supported by intentional coordination and global connection, can translate diversity into cooperation, deepen engagement beyond one-off activities, and lay a strong foundation for scaling collective impact in complex and rapidly changing environments.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT



The URI North America region reflects the heart of URI's grassroots model in action. Across the United States and Canada, Cooperation Circles lead locally rooted, interfaith responses to some of the most pressing social, environmental, and humanitarian challenges of our time.

While URI does not directly fund or manage these initiatives, we proudly share the work of our Cooperation Circles, autonomous, grassroots groups that embody URI's mission through locally-led action.



STORIES FROM OUR NETWORK

These initiatives, led independently by URI Cooperation Circles, illustrate the region's grassroots impact.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE ROOTED IN COMPASSION

As climate impacts intensify, interfaith cooperation has also become a critical vehicle for protecting vulnerable populations.

Climate, Compassion, and Community Care - *United States*

During periods of extreme heat, **Arizona Faith Network CC** established cooling centers, offering safe, welcoming spaces for those most at risk. This life-saving response demonstrated how interfaith action can meet urgent environmental challenges while centering human dignity and care for the most vulnerable.

INNOVATION AT THE INTERSECTION OF FAITH, FAMILY, ART, AND SCIENCE

Beyond crisis response, North America Cooperation Circles are also exploring innovative, interdisciplinary pathways to peace and wellbeing.

Think Round Inc. CC - *United States*

Think Round, Inc. CC, a nonprofit organization established in 2004, is teaching thousands of elementary school children and their families using their innovative art and science curricula. It has brought together faith leaders, educators, artists, and scientists to explore how art, science, and spirituality can nurture the well-being of families and communities. By integrating multiple disciplines and belief traditions, this work highlighted how interfaith cooperation can strengthen homes, the foundational spaces where values, resilience, and peace are first cultivated.





GET INVOLVED

For twenty-five years, URI has shown what is possible when people come together across differences to create positive change. As we look ahead, we invite you to be part of our next chapter—strengthening the world’s largest grassroots interfaith network and helping build cultures of peace, justice, and healing.

JOIN THE URI NETWORK

Be part of a global community working for peace, interfaith understanding, and social transformation. Join as a Cooperation Circle to connect your group or organization to a worldwide network, or as an Individual Member to engage personally in global interfaith action. Together, we learn, collaborate, and create lasting impact in our communities.

Link: <https://www.uri.org/welcome>



**Become an
Individual
Member**



**Register a URI
Cooperation
Circle**

BECOME A PARTNER

Partnerships make URI stronger and more effective. We collaborate with faith-based organizations, NGOs, local governments, academic institutions, and international networks to amplify collective impact. Partner with us to design programs, share knowledge, and multiply the reach of interfaith and peacebuilding initiatives. Go to the link to learn more: <https://www.uri.org/partnerships>



JOIN THE STRATEGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

The Strategic Advisory Council is a global body of distinguished leaders and friends who share their expertise, influence, and resources to advance URI's mission. SAC members serve as ambassadors, advisors, and champions of interfaith cooperation worldwide. We welcome new members who are passionate about peacebuilding and want to contribute to URI's long-term growth and visibility. [Learn more about the SAC](#)



HOST A FUNDRAISER

Support URI by organizing a community event, gathering, or campaign that raises awareness and resources for our global work. Whether it's a dinner, dialogue, or online campaign, your event can inspire others to take action and invest in peace. URI provides stories, visuals, and guidance to help make your fundraiser meaningful and successful.

Contact us at development@uri.org.

JOIN EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL

Experience URI's work firsthand. Join a journey that connects donors and supporters with grassroots peacebuilders creating real change in their communities. These visits offer a chance to witness the impact of interfaith collaboration, learn directly from local leaders, and see the power of URI's network in action.

To explore upcoming opportunities, contact: development@uri.org.

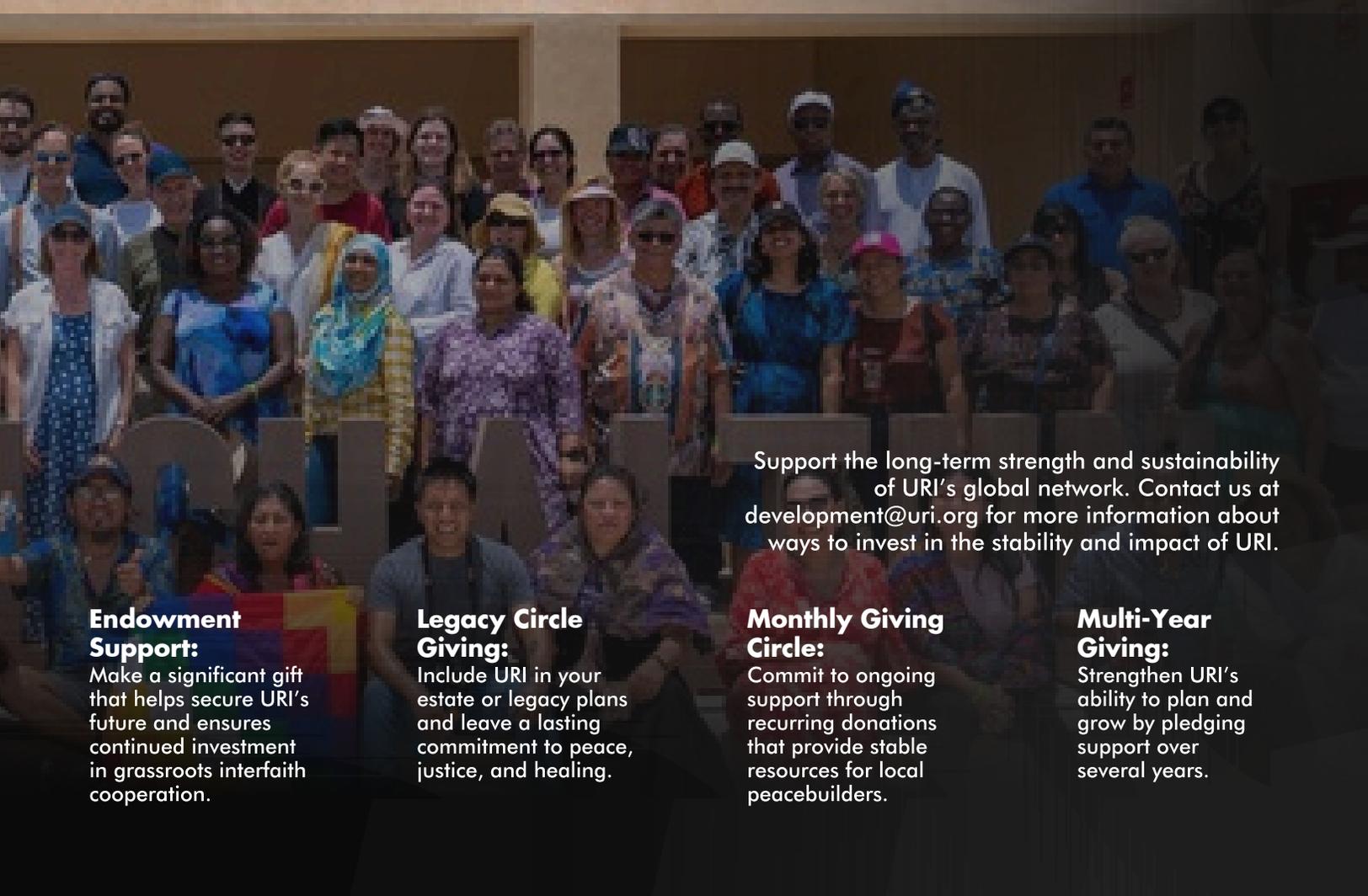
INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

Your contribution helps URI empower local peacebuilders, prevent violence, and protect the planet. Every gift supports grassroots leadership, regional gatherings, and initiatives that create real change on the ground. Invest in peace today and help us strengthen this global movement for the years ahead.



Scan to
Donate Now!





Support the long-term strength and sustainability of URI's global network. Contact us at development@uri.org for more information about ways to invest in the stability and impact of URI.

Endowment Support:

Make a significant gift that helps secure URI's future and ensures continued investment in grassroots interfaith cooperation.

Legacy Circle Giving:

Include URI in your estate or legacy plans and leave a lasting commitment to peace, justice, and healing.

Monthly Giving Circle:

Commit to ongoing support through recurring donations that provide stable resources for local peacebuilders.

Multi-Year Giving:

Strengthen URI's ability to plan and grow by pledging support over several years.

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY



URI is committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of every contribution we receive. Each dollar entrusted to URI supports the collective impact of thousands of grassroots peacebuilders advancing interfaith collaboration, violence prevention, and Earth healing.

URI holds a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, recognizing our commitment to financial integrity and effective management. Independent audits are conducted annually to ensure that resources are used efficiently and in alignment with our mission. Copies of audited financial statements are available upon request.





URI's achievements are the result of collective action, made possible by the generosity and trust of our donors and supporters. Their commitment strengthens our network, connects communities across regions, and enables grassroots leaders to work together for peace, justice, and healing. Each contribution, partnership, and act of solidarity helps expand the reach of this global movement and amplifies the impact we create together.

HONORING DONORS & SUPPORTERS

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The URI Way does not impose; it invites.
It doesn't dictate direction; it opens pathways.
It is not about control, but connection.



P.O. Box 29242, San Francisco, CA 94129 USA info@uri.org
URI is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which relies on individual contributions to further
its global efforts.