

SPRING 2017

INTERACTI N

A SPECIAL UNITED NATIONS ISSUE:
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE AND WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK





Dear Friends,

The connection between the United Nations and the United Religions Initiative began at the very birth of URI. URI's name and guiding Preamble, Purpose and Principles witness our common focus: to be peacebuilders, to be inclusive, to respect differences, and to flourish when the rights and responsibilities of all living beings and the Earth are considered in our actions.

Such pioneers as Sr. Carol Zinn, Sr. Joan Kirby, Rev. Betsy Stang, Jonathan Granoff and Avon Mattison brought the work of the UN into various stages of URI's development. I had the good fortune to work with URI founders Fr. Luis Dolan and Rev. Deborah Moldow as they introduced URI into the work of the UN. URI-UN is a founding Cooperation Circle whose first official event was signing the URI Charter at United Nations Headquarters (simultaneously with the Charter signing ceremony in Pittsburgh) on June 26, 2000.

By incorporating UN resolutions and goals into the work of URI Cooperation Circles through education and programs, we involve our members in issues that have been agreed to by the governments of the world. Cooperation Circles support the United Nations by highlighting various causes such as nuclear disarmament, protection of the environment, indigenous issues, gender equality, and many more. The 2030 Agenda adopted in 2015, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals, presents a roadmap that invites Cooperation Circles to take actions to create a safe and sustainable future.

I am blessed to lead URI's active and effective team of representatives to the United Nations. They are: Amb. Mussie Hailu, Audrey Kitagawa, JD, Martha Gallahue, Rabbi Roger Ross, Amb. Leslie Gatan, Rev. Debbra Gill, Swamini Sri Lalitambika Devi and Sayid Abdullaev. The URI-UN CC is co-facilitated by Rev. Deborah Moldow and Audrey Kitagawa.

This special issue celebrates events from our global community and features images from our member groups. The UN team thanks our Cooperation Circles for participating in International Day of Peace and World Interfaith Harmony Week, and for incorporating UN issues and programs into their work.

May Peace Prevail on Earth,

Monica Willard, URI Representative to the United Nations

Welcome to our new Cooperation Circles!

DECEMBER 2016

Nasolo Cooperation Circle (Blantyre, Malawi, URI Africa)
Empowerment of Women and Children to Peace - COEWCA (Kabul, Afghanistan, URI Asia)

Saksham

(Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, URI Asia)

Sustainable Peace through Social Development CC

(Dargha Town, Sri Lanka, URI Asia)

California Institute for Human Science - CIHS CA

(Encinitas, CA, USA, URI North America)

The Oracle Institute

(Independence, VA, USA, URI North America)

JANUARY 2017

NextGen Africa Initiative (Lagos, Nigeria, URI Africa)

Kosovo Center for Dialogue (Pristina, Kosovo, URI Europe)

FEBRUARY 2017

Parliament of the People – Schaumberg

(Skeerport, South Africa, URI Africa)

Asia Culture House

(Kabul, Afghanistan, URI Asia)

Gram Swawlambhi Swadeshi Swaraj Foundation

(Delhi, India, URI Asia)

BK Educational Society, Andhra Pradesh

(Guntur, India, URI Asia)

Sagara Nature CC, Vettikkavala

(Kerala, India, URI Asia)

Larsa (Basra, Iraq, URI Middle East and North Africa)

MARCH 2017

Connecting the Dots (Johannesburg, South Africa, URI Africa)

Realities Beyond The Truth (Kabul, Afghanistan, URI Asia)

Sadbhawana Samiti (Hazaribag, Jharkhand, India, URI Asia)

Sarwadharm Vichar Manch

(Dhanbad, Jharkhand, India, URI Asia)

Abhigyane Foundation (Uttar Pradesh, India, URI Asia)

Progressive Action for Community Emancipation - PACE

(Andra Pradesh, India, URI Asia)

Amsterdam Women's Group - Vrouwengroep RLRA

Amsterdam (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, URI Europe)

Kids4Peace (based in USA, URI Multiregion)

URI thanks its leading Circles of Light Sponsors!

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Roselyne Chroman Swig

The United Nations and the United Religions Initiative: A PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE

1995

The United Nations asks the Right Rev. William E. Swing to gather representatives of all nations and religions at Grace Cathedral for the UN's 50th Anniversary, sparking an idea for a "United Religions."

1996

Bishop Swing hires a small staff in San Francisco, CA, USA; the URI team begins work with David Cooperrider, professor at Case Western University, and Dee Hock, developer of VISA and the Chaordic Alliance.

2000

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

2002

URI becomes a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) affiliated with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).

2007

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

2009

The URI-UN group goes on to host nine events highlighting the International Year of Reconciliation.

2010

The UN Alliance of Civilizations selects URI's Traveling Peace Academy as one of the 10 most innovative and successful grassroots initiatives aimed at promoting mutual understanding among people and cultures.

2013

Interfaith Mediation Centre, a URI Cooperation Circle in Kaduna, Nigeria, wins the \$25,000 UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Grand Prize for its event "Imam and Pastor: From Vengeance to Forgiveness."

2014

URI sends youth to a United Nations event with Malala Yousafzai, beginning an annual practice of URI youth visits to the UN.

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

2015

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

2017

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



URI at the United Nations (clockwise, left to right): URI Global Council Chair, Kiran Bali; Mussie Hailu, Monica Willard and Victor Kazanjian at the Alliance of Civilizations; the 2015 joint URI-UN anniversary celebration in San Francisco; the URI Representatives to the United Nations.



From the very beginning, the United Religions Initiative has taken inspiration from the United Nations. In fact, it was at the UN's 50th anniversary celebration, held in San Francisco's Grace Cathedral, that the impetus for creating a "United Religions" came to URI president and founder the Right Rev. William E. Swing. "We were intoxicated by a vision," he recalls. "If there was a United Nations, what about creating a United Religions?"

Over the decades, the connection between URI and the UN has flourished. All over the world, URI Cooperation Circles celebrate the UN International Day of Peace and World Interfaith Harmony Week. In fact, several URI groups have won the World Interfaith Harmony Week contest, an international honor sponsored by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan. URI delegates regularly take part in UN events, including a yearly youth delegation. In 2015, URI was invited to join the UN's 70th anniversary.

Today, URI's connection with the UN is stronger than ever. Victor Kazanjian, URI Executive Director, and Mussie Hailu and Monica Willard, URI Representatives to the UN, are actively building connections with the UN and related agencies who will have the most direct impact for URI Cooperation Circles.

"We hope to build more partnerships to be in closer contact with UN agencies," Victor Kazanjian says. "It allows the UN to see us as a partner in promoting its programs, and allows us to be closely engaged in strategic policies that affect the communities in which we work around the world."

The partnership is especially fruitful because it embraces the specific strengths of each organization. Reaching people on a grassroots level has historically been a challenge for the UN, whereas URI excels at community education. "We can get things into the hands of people at a grassroots level, and translate high-level policy statements into a context they find relevant and useful," says Victor Kazanjian. At the same time, the reach and impact of the UN is a considerable advantage for smaller URI groups whose voices need amplification.

Monica Willard adds: "the URI presence at the United Nations and our grassroots programs around the world add spirit, focus, prayer, and multi-faith cooperation to help build strong communities and a more caring world."



international
day of
peace



THE ARTS



world
interfaith
harmony
week



The arts play a large role in URI's peacebuilding activities because music, theater, painting, and other art forms speak to humans on a deep level that cuts through superficial differences. These URI members celebrated **International Day of Peace (IDP)** and **World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)** with activities such as musical concerts, fine art exhibitions, theater, and radio programs.

WIHW CARAVAN Cooperation Circle: *"Beyond Bridges" Art Exhibition* (Durham, North Carolina, United States - URI Multiregion)

IDP CARAVAN Cooperation Circle: *"The Key" Art Exhibition* (New York, New York, United States - URI Multiregion)

WIHW Charter for Compassion: *Five Interfaith Webinar Radio Programs* (Seattle, Washington, United States - URI North America)

IDP Circulo De Cooperación para el Diálogo Cooperation Circle: *Interfaith Radio Program* (Caracas, Venezuela - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

IDP Interfaith Cooperation Circle of Kaua'i: *Cultural Performances, Open Mic, Children's Crafts and Activities* (Kaua'i, Hawaii, United States - URI North America)

IDP Muncie Interfaith Fellowship Cooperation Circle: *Poetry Reading and House Concert* (Muncie, Indiana, United States - URI North America)

IDP Nashville Cooperation Circle: *Representatives of Seven Faiths Share Sacred Music and Texts* (Nashville, Tennessee, United States - URI North America)

IDP Rothko Chapel: *Twilight Music Meditation* (Houston, Texas, United States - URI North America)

WIHW Surrey Interfaith Council: *First Annual Interfaith Music and Spoken Word Concert* (Surrey, British Columbia, Canada - URI North America)

IDP Unity and Diversity World Council Cooperation Circle: *Peace Sunday: Speakers, Musicians, and Workshops on the Theme of Sustainability* (Los Angeles, California, United States - URI North America)

WIHW URI Europe: *"Queen of the Desert" Film Screening* (Adendorf, Germany - URI Europe)

WIHW URI North Zone of India and Afghanistan: *Ek Koshish (One Hope) Radio Program* (Delhi, India - URI Asia)

For detailed descriptions of these events, please visit www.URI.org



HIGHLIGHT

Circulo De Cooperación para el Diálogo Cooperation Circle broadcast a special two-hour interfaith radio program in Caracas, Venezuela through radiocomunidad.com. They discussed how different religions bring values to generate peace in their communities, and how the world needs more respect, tolerance, and dialogue for peace. They invited leaders of multiple faiths to speak as special guests.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES



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With understanding often comes empathy, so many URI celebrations involve an educational component to help people understand cultures and traditions besides their own. These **International Day of Peace (IDP)** and **World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)** celebrations included teaching and learning opportunities such as gathering international experts for speaker panels, holding conferences and workshops, sponsoring academic competitions, and running university programs.

IDP Council of Religions Cooperation Circle: *National Conference of Religious Leaders* (Port Louis, Mauritius - URI Africa)

IDP Faith 2 Faith Cooperation Circle: *Live Facebook Broadcast: Who Will You Make Peace With?* (London, England, United Kingdom - URI Europe)

IDP Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County Cooperation Circle: *Compassionate Listening and Interfaith Dialogue: Retreat and Programs* (Danville, California, United States - URI North America)

WIHW Karickam International Public School Cooperation Circle: *Interfaith Arts Fest: Student Painting, Essay, Religion, and Elocution Competitions* (Kottarakara, India - URI Asia)

WIHW Kasinje CC: *Panelist Discussion: Let's Respect The Rights Of The Less Privileged* (Malawi - URI Africa)

IDP Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights Cooperation Circle: *Distinguished Speakers Address: "Religion Desires Peace, Tranquility and Social Harmony"* (Sialkot, Pakistan - URI Asia)

WIHW URI – West Africa Region: *Religious Educators, Leaders and Organizations on Interreligious Peace Education for National Harmony and Cooperation* (Abuja, Nigeria - URI Africa)

IDP URI Brasilia Cooperation Circle: *Experts from Five Continents Present Concrete Actions for Peace and Human Development* (Brasilia - Distrito Federal, Brazil - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

WIHW URI East India: *Interfaith Relationship Discussions with Youth Sports and Drawing Competitions* (East India - URI Asia)

IDP URI Korea: *Peace Forum: 2,500-Person Lecture on Lotus Sutra with Peace and Coexistence Exhibition* (Gyeongju, Korea - URI Asia)

IDP Youth for Peace, Bosnia and Herzegovina: *Peace Summer School* (Bosnia and Herzegovina - URI Europe)

Youth for Peace held a Peace Summer School that brought together 25 young participants from throughout Europe, as well as 10 trainers from the Cooperation Circle. The school taught inter-religious dialogue workshops and presented customs from multiple religious traditions.

HIGHLIGHT

For detailed descriptions of these events, please visit www.URI.org



world
interfaith
harmony
week



GATHERINGS & MARCHES



international
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International Day of Peace (IDP) and **World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)** are perfect occasions for people to come together. In these celebrations, people of different faiths gather for a common purpose. Whether it's a large and active gathering like marching to increase awareness of a cause, or a small and casual gathering like meeting in a park for a picnic, interfaith togetherness is the goal.

IDP Círculo de Cooperação URI Goiás: *Religions and Peace: Interreligious Ceremony, Conferences, Debates, Music, Dance, Theater, Workshops, Meditation, Prayers* (Goiânia, Goiás, Brazil - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

IDP Global Compassion Cooperation Circle: *Peace Walk and Dialogue to Promote Love, Compassion, Tolerance and Peaceful Coexistence* (Santchou, Cameroon - URI Africa)

WIHW Karachi URI CC: *WIHW Welcome Conference: Interfaith Holy Text Readings, Speeches, Performances, and More* (Islamabad, Pakistan - URI Asia)

IDP Rio Inter-Religious Movement CC (MIR): *We Are Dignity: Silence, Screaming, Dancing, Poetry, Performances, and Speeches* (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

IDP Rio Inter-Religious Movement CC (MIR): *Spring Equinox Celebration* (Nowa Cumig Native Traditions Center, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

IDP Rio Inter-Religious Movement CC (MIR): *1st Walking for Religious Freedom: I Have Faith* (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

IDP SARAH Spiritual and Religious Alliance for Hope Cooperation Circle: *Posting Love Notes for People to Discover* (Rancho Santa Margarita, California, United States - URI North America)

WIHW Stichting Interreligieus Beraad Segbroek (Foundation Interreligious Council Segbroek) CC: *Multiple Programs: Food, Discussion, and More* (The Netherlands - URI Europe)

WIHW Surrey Interfaith Council: *2017 Surrey Interfaith 16.3km Pilgrimage* (Surrey, British Columbia, Canada - URI North America)

IDP University of Rochester Interfaith Chapel: *Labyrinth Walk for Peace* (Rochester, New York, United States - URI North America)

WIHW URI Bangladesh: *University Campus Peace Rally* (Dhaka, Bangladesh - URI Asia)

WIHW URI South India: *Forming a Human "Wall of Love"* (South India - URI Asia)

IDP Women Interfaith Network (WIN) Cooperation Circle: *First Steps of Peace: COMMON and WIN Park Picnic and Walk* (Alphington, Australia - URI Multiregion)

For detailed descriptions of these events, please visit www.URI.org

The URI South India Region concluded UN Interfaith Harmony Week by forming a "Human Wall of Love." Hundreds of students and Cooperation Circle leaders joined in an unbreakable formation, standing together to send a strong message of opposition to all forms of evil and violence.

HIGHLIGHT





Regardless of the diverse traditions we observe, two things bind all humans together: the planet we all share and our shared humanity. These URI Cooperation Circles celebrated **International Day of Peace (IDP)** and **World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)** by helping society and the natural world, such as organizing volunteer opportunities, reforestation and tree planting, and charitable benefit events.

- IDP** Ektaan CC, Muslim Taraqqyati Wa Falahi Adara CC: *Distributing School Bags Among Children in Need* (Asansol, West Bengal, India - URI Asia)
- IDP** Hope in Life Foundation: *Feeding our Homeless Brothers and Sisters* (Long Beach, California, United States - URI Multiregion)
- IDP** Interfaith Peace Building on Natural Resources Management: *Planting 650 Mangrove Trees* (Kampot Province, Cambodia - URI Southeast Asia and the Pacific)
- WIHW** Interfaith Peace Building on Natural Resources Management: *Interfaith Peacebuilding on NRM in Cambodia: Our Forest, Our Life, Our Responsibility* (Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia - URI Southeast Asia and the Pacific)
- WIHW** Lower Shire Interfaith Initiative: *Tree Planting, Prayers and Fellowship* (Mulilima, Chikwawa, Southern Region, Malawi - URI Africa)
- WIHW** Nasolo Cooperation Circle: *Supporting Orphans and the Elderly for World Interfaith Harmony Week* (Blantyre, Malawi - URI Africa)
- WIHW** Palki Peace Circle: *Feeding 7,000 Needy, Irrespective of Caste, Creed, Colour, or Religion* (Kolkata State, West Bengal, India - URI Asia)
- WIHW** Quisted Peace CC, Mercy CC, URI MENA: *Creating a School for Syrian Refugee Children* (Undisclosed Location, Jordan - URI Middle East and North Africa)
- WIHW** URI Brasilia: *Semana Mundial de Harmonia Entre as Religiões (Tree Planting and Interfaith Gathering)* (Brasilia, Brazil - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)
- WIHW** URI Great Lakes Africa - Body and Soul CC, Restoring and Empowering Communities CC, Twekolere Women's Development CC, Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue CC, Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative Cooperation Circle, and Golden Women Vision Uganda CC: *Refugee Camp Visit* (Adjumani, Uganda - URI Africa)
- IDP** URI MENA Office: *Supporting Handicapped and Orphaned Refugee Children in Baqaa Camp* (Baqaa Palestinian Refugee Camp, Jordan - URI Middle East and North Africa)
- IDP** URI South India: *Pledge to Protect Our Sweet, Flowing Rivers* (Kottarakkara, India - URI Asia)

For detailed descriptions of these events, please visit www.URI.org



HIGHLIGHT

In Africa, the URI Great Lakes region brought together seven Cooperation Circles to visit a refugee camp on the border of Uganda and South Sudan. Pursuing the idea that love of God is love of one's neighbor, the URI members welcomed and brought messages of peace to their refugee brothers and sisters who had fled from violent conflict.



INTERFAITH DISCUSSIONS



When people of multiple faith traditions come together and share what makes their backgrounds unique, it creates a safe space to appreciate diversity without judgment. URI members celebrated **International Day of Peace (IDP)** and **World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)** with interfaith discussions, some of which were the first opportunity for participants to meet and form friendships with others who did not share their beliefs.

- IDP** Abbey of Hope: "Pizza for Peace" Party (Portland, Maine, United States - URI North America)
- IDP** Community Organization for People Empowerment (COPE Pakistan): *Interfaith Collaboration Between Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs* (Okara, Pakistan - URI Asia)
- IDP** Community Organization for People Empowerment (COPE Pakistan): *Participate and Talk on Peace with Youth, Women, and Religious and Political Leaders* (Renala Khurd Okara, Pakistan - URI Asia)
- WIHW** Deepening the Journey Cooperation Circle: *Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, and Progressive Christian Women Interfaith Discussion* (Marin County, California, United States - URI North America)
- WIHW** Global Clergy Association-Vancouver BC Cooperation Circle: *How Can Interfaith Communication Enhance Harmony? Local Religious Leaders Share Perspectives from Their Traditions* (Surrey, British Columbia, Canada - URI North America)
- IDP** Interfaith Cooperation Circle of Central Virginia: *Peace Meditation and Discussion* (Charlottesville, Virginia, United States - URI North America)
- WIHW** InterFaith Works & Women Transcending Boundaries: *Love is the Answer - Interfaith Presentation and Discussion* (Syracuse, New York, United States - URI North America)
- WIHW** Trust-WIN Cooperation Circle: *Women's Interfaith Harmony Gathering for World Interfaith Harmony Week* (Daliat AICarmel, Israel - URI Middle East and North Africa)
- IDP** TRUST-WIN Cooperation Circle: *Interfaith Women's Gathering* (Ranaana, Israel - URI Middle East and North Africa)
- IDP** URI Germany, DMLBonn CC (Deutsche Muslim-Liga Bonn e.V), Interkultureller Kreis URI Bonn CC: *Peace Meditation, Project and News Exchange* (Bonn, Germany - URI Europe)
- WIHW** URI Southeast Asia and Pacific Region: *What Does it Mean to be a Person of Faith in Melbourne Today?* (East Coburg, Australia - URI Southeast Asia and the Pacific)

For detailed descriptions of these events, please visit www.URI.org

Seventy-five women, from 12 to 93 years old, of Christian, Druze, Jewish, and Muslim faiths, gathered for a discussion in Israel facilitated by Trust-WIN CC. For some, it was their first time ever meeting an "Other." The reactions of women coming together were intense. A Jewish woman said she felt healed by being in such a gathering. A Druze woman said she had never been in Ranaana and was moved by the warm welcome. A Muslim woman said she was eager for more opportunities to get together with women from different faiths.



HIGHLIGHT



Prayers and ceremonies are at the heart of religious and spiritual traditions, so the opportunity to share and learn about each others' rituals is a large benefit of participating in an interfaith community. These **International Day of Peace (IDP)** and **World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)** celebrations featured group prayers or spiritual and religious ceremonies from different cultures, acknowledging the differences and celebrating the commonalities.

IDP Foro Espiritual de Santiago para la Paz Cooperation Circle: *"Prayer for Peace" Ceremony with Prayers from Different Traditions* (Santiago, Providencia, Chile - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

IDP Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County: *"We Pray, We Dance, We Talk, We Eat, We Laugh, and God Hears Our Prayers" Labyrinth Walk* (Danville, California, United States - URI North America)

IDP Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County Cooperation Circle: *"Resisting Despair" - Sharing Peace Songs, Hymns and Readings from Various Traditions* (Walnut Creek, California, United States - URI North America)

IDP Interkultureller Kreis URI Bonn Cooperation Circle: *Fountain Gathering and Silent Prayer* (Bonn, Germany - URI Europe)

IDP Kuxkatan Cooperation Circle: *"The Word Maya 2012" - Film and Indigenous Prayer* (Caluco, Sonsonate, El Salvador - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

WIHW Rio Inter-Religious Movement CC (MIR): *"Thanks to the Waters" Interfaith Beach Ceremony* (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

WIHW Rio Inter-Religious Movement CC (MIR): *United to Bless the Marvelous City of Rio de Janeiro* (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

WIHW SYNC for Harmony: *GLOBAL- Synched Prayers Around the World* (URI Multiregion)

IDP The United Religions Initiative at the United Nations Cooperation Circle: *Rededication of the Peace Pole* (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, United States - URI North America)

IDP URI MENA Office, Naya CC, Mercy CC, Qusted Peace Cooperation Circle: *Interfaith Prayers and Recitation of Holy Texts* (Jordan - URI Middle East and North Africa)

IDP URI Northeast Tennessee Cooperation Circle: *Candles, Prayers, and Songs for World Peace* (Jonesborough, Tennessee, United States - URI North America)

For detailed descriptions of these events, please visit www.URI.org



Interkultureller Kreis URI Bonn Cooperation Circle held an interfaith gathering around a prominent public fountain in Bonn, Germany. Twenty-five people stood in silent prayer and meditation, which attracted curious attention from passers-by. The URI members explained the purpose of the International Day of Peace, and soon everyone was circling the fountain together, singing songs of peace so enthusiastically that even nearby café patrons joined in.



Young people have been an essential part of URI since its inception. Many Cooperation Circles reach out to young people specifically to ensure that they have opportunities to grow up in a supportive environment regardless of religion, caste, or culture. These **International Day of Peace (IDP)** and **World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)** celebrations with young people included youth sporting events, children's parades for peace, and interfaith discussions at primary schools.

WIHW

CC Parwaaj: *Interfaith Week with Schoolchildren and Youth* (West India - URI Asia)

WIHW

Community Organization for People Empowerment (COPE Pakistan): *World Interfaith Harmony Week with Children from Different Religions* (Okara, Pakistan - URI Asia)

IDP

Escuela de Amor Cooperation Circle: *Northlands School Interfaith Student Discussion* (Olivos, Buenos Aires, Argentina - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

WIHW

Foro Espiritual de Santiago para la Paz CC: *Interfaith Dialogue in Relation to Children* (Santiago, Chile - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

IDP

Karickam International Public School Cooperation Circle: *"We Want Peace" Parade* (Kottarakara, India - URI Asia)

IDP

Mulapnen Capacity Building Initiative (MUCABI): *Interfaith Classroom Engagement with Christian and Muslim Students* (Jos, Nigeria - URI Africa)

IDP

The Quiet Voice Cooperation Circle: *One United ROAR: Children Create Videos About the Plight of Lions* (Limpopo, South Africa - URI Africa)

WIHW

United Religions Initiative at the United Nations Cooperation Circle: *URI Youth Visit the United Nations for the Commission on Social Development* (New York, New York, United States - URI Multiregion)

IDP

URI Horn of Africa: *State Secretary of Youth and Sport Meeting* (Djibouti City, Djibouti - URI Africa)

IDP

URI Lima Cooperation Circle: *Students and Faculty Members of Different Christian Churches Celebrate International Day of Peace* (Ciudad de San Miguel, Lima, Peru - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)

IDP

Volunteering for Peace Cooperation Circle: *Children Make and Display Signs About Peace to the Community* (Gaza - URI Middle East and North Africa)

For detailed descriptions of these events, please visit www.URI.org



In the midst of the violence and unrest in Gaza, Volunteering for Peace Cooperation Circle gathered children to create heartfelt signs about the peace they wished to see in their community. The children then displayed their signs to the community, proclaiming, "Peace is the way!"

OTHER ACTIVITIES



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The URI community celebrates **International Day of Peace (IDP)** and **World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)** in many ways around the world. From festive parties to quiet memorial events, and from ringing peace bells to giving presentations at the United Nations, the diversity of the celebrations highlights the diversity of our worldwide community.

- WIHW** Lilongwe Central Cooperation: *Interfaith Togetherness Party with Village Chiefs and Faith Leaders* (Lilongwe, Malawi - URI Africa)
- IDP** Campinas Cooperation Circle: *Peace Festival with Peace Flags, Reforestation Planting, Reiki, Yoga, Dancing, Workshops, and Celebrations* (Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)
- IDP** Cultural Infusion Cooperation Circle: *Volunteering at Peace Day Activities* (Melbourne, Australia - URI Southeast Asia and the Pacific)
- WIHW** Golden Women Vision in Uganda: *Preventing Alcohol Abuse - Burning Contraband* (Uganda - URI Africa)
- IDP** Hope in Life Foundation: *Remembering 9/11: A Memorial Program* (Irvine, California, United States - URI Multiregion)
- WIHW** Inter Religion Harmony Society (IRHS): *Award Ceremony and Discussion Meeting* (Dhaka, Bangladesh - URI Asia)
- IDP** Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County Cooperation Circle: *International Day of Peace with Diverse Religions, Shared Food, Families, and Lawn Games* (Livermore, California, United States - URI North America)
- IDP** Interreligioses Team Osttirol Cooperation Circle: *Peacebuilders Unite at the Bell of Peace and Friendship on the Mountain* (Lienz, Austria - URI Europe)
- IDP** Lahore CC, Global Mission Awareness CC, Wake CC, COPE CC, Peace and Development CC, Bhatta (Kiln) Workers CC, Anglo-Asian CC, Tehreek-e-Insaniat CC, Youth Revolution CC, ABC 4 All CC, National Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism CC, Travel Agents CC, National Muslim Christian Dialogue CC, Lahore MCC, and URI Regional Office Pakistan: *URI Pakistan Regional Office Celebration with Speeches, Peace Songs, Poetry, and Tableaux* (Lahore, Pakistan - URI Asia)
- IDP** Nkhata Bay Cooperation Circle: *Exploring Interfaith Collaboration Through Sports, Traditional Dances, and More* (Nkhata Bay, Malawi - URI Africa)
- WIHW** Rio Inter-Religious Movement CC (MIR): *Religious Freedom: It Is Our Fight; Inter-religious Talks, an Interfaith Sarau (Art Expression), and Bilingual Book Launch* (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - URI Latin America and the Caribbean)
- WIHW** Tri City Interfaith Council: *Multi-Faith Information Booths, Circle Conversations, and Cultural Bread Sampling* (Fremont, California, United States - URI North America)
- IDP** United Religions Initiative at the United Nations Cooperation Circle: *Sustainable Development Goals - Building Blocks for Peace* (New York, New York, United States - URI Multiregion)
- WIHW** URI CC Lienz/Austria: *Let's Make Heaven on Earth Again: Internet Community Launch and Documentary Film Screening* (Lienz, Austria - URI Europe)



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