




2019-2020 IMPACT REPORT

# PEACE JUSTICE HEALING

CELEBRATING

20  
YEARS





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

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

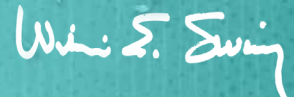
Let's continue to build our future together.



Kiran Bali, MBE JP  
URI Global Council Chairperson



The Reverend Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.  
URI Executive Director



The Right Reverend William E. Swing  
URI President and Founder

# Our Future Together



## FOUNDING STORY

The inspiration for the United Religions Initiative came in 1993 when The Right Rev. William E. Swing planned to host an interfaith service for the United Nations' 50th anniversary. After being unable to meaningfully engage religious leaders, he invited community members from around the world—from all faiths, backgrounds, and traditions—to co-create a grassroots initiative for peace. In 2000, the Charter was signed and URI was born.



## FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

URI is now embarking on a journey of engagement, using its core values to shape the path that will lead it into the next 20 years. These core values of URI—our Preamble, Purpose, and Principles—are listed in the enclosed poster. URI's member groups, called Cooperation Circles, have inspired these values from diverse religions, spiritual expressions and Indigenous traditions throughout the world. URI invites you to join with our global community in co-creating the exciting next chapter of URI's story.

# Impact by Region

## 1,061 Cooperation Circles (CCs) in 108 Countries



EUROPE  
**61** CCs  
**24** Countries



AFRICA  
**237** CCs  
**33** Countries



NORTH AMERICA  
**95** CCs  
**2** Countries



MIDDLE EAST AND  
NORTH AFRICA  
**88** CCs  
**16** Countries



ASIA  
**393** CCs  
**9** Countries



SOUTHEAST ASIA  
AND THE PACIFIC  
**54** CCs  
**8** Countries



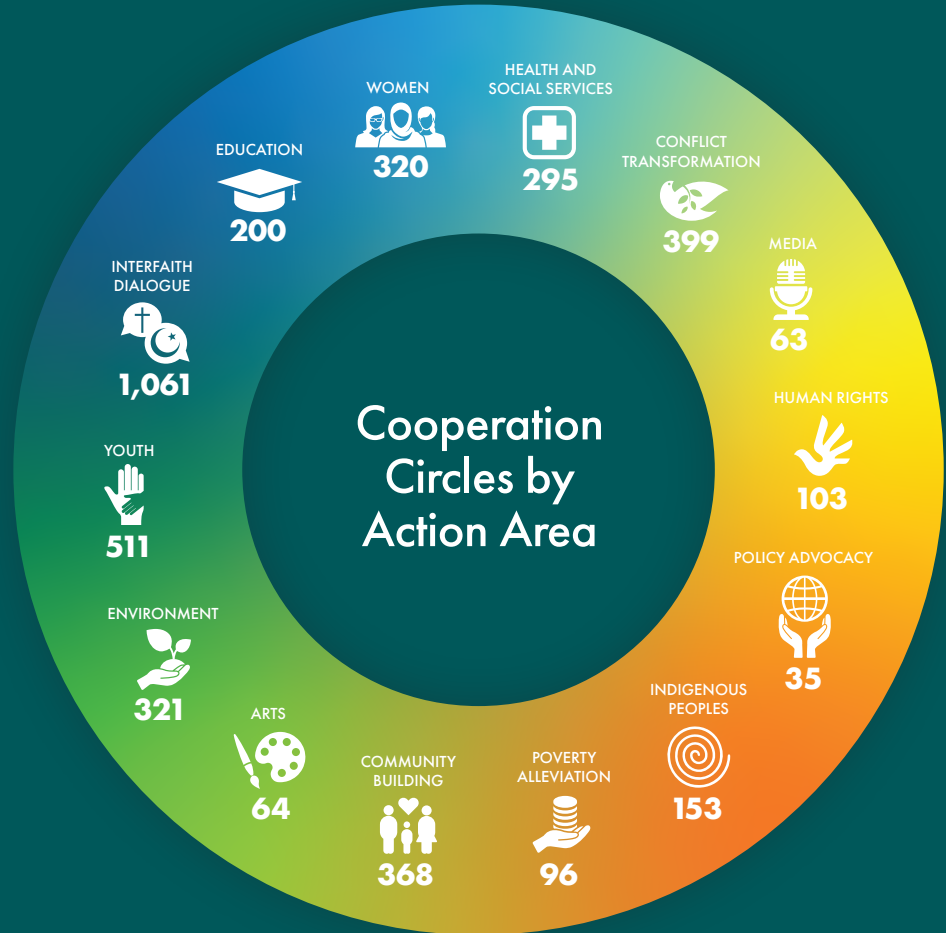
MULTIREGION  
**74** CCs  
Worldwide



LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARRIBEAN  
**59** CCs  
**16** Countries

# Impact by Action Area

People of all traditions, from more than 100 countries, joining against the forces of violence and oppression make a remarkable global impact. Together, we create the world's largest grassroots interfaith peacebuilding network with more than 1,000 member groups — and growing.





## Women

URI is committed to principles of equality and issues impacting women in all aspects of society.

LEARN MORE  
[uri.org/women](http://uri.org/women)

## HEALING AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

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



### LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The three Cooperation Circle leaders who have served as Chairperson on the Global Council – URI's board of directors – have all been women. (L-R: Kiran Bali, Rita Semel and Yoland Trevino)





المبادرة المتحدة للاديان - منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا

# URI MENA 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Assembly 2017

Assembly Theme

## People against Violence

November 23-26 2017

Amman, Jordan



### **HARNESSING THE POWER OF SISTERHOOD**

Trust WIN Cooperation Circle harnesses the power of sisterhood of Israeli and Palestinian women who also identify as Christians, Druze, Jews and Muslims. They come together to deepen their understanding about each other's beliefs, and tackle service projects in their community.



## Youth

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

LEARN MORE  
[uri.org/youth](http://uri.org/youth)



### YOUTH LEADING THE WAY

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





### DROPS INTO RIPPLES

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



### SHAPING TOMORROW

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



# Indigenous Peoples

URI works to preserve the rights and values of Indigenous peoples everywhere.

LEARN MORE

[uri.org/indigenouspeoples](http://uri.org/indigenouspeoples)



## DIFFERENT WORLDS COME TOGETHER

In Latin America, URI has helped create real bridges between religions and the Indigenous Cosmovision. It began as a journey: a hopeful enthusiasm to see different religions in open dialogue with Indigenous Peoples. The region continues to lead the network in working to remove barriers of ignorance that divide communities.





### **RIGHTS TO LIVE AND THRIVE**

In 2014, Indigenous leaders from around the world gathered in San Francisco to engage in ceremony, to dream the future and to embody the global movement for peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings. Among what emerged was the Hidden Seeds Cooperation Circle, which works to keep Indigenous issues at the forefront of URI's work and to mobilize a global response.



### **A COLLECTIVE VOICE**

In 2016, a URI delegation traveled to Standing Rock Reservation in the United States to join hundreds of people of faith for an Interfaith Day of Prayer, and to lend the network's collective voice to the cry to protect Mother Earth.

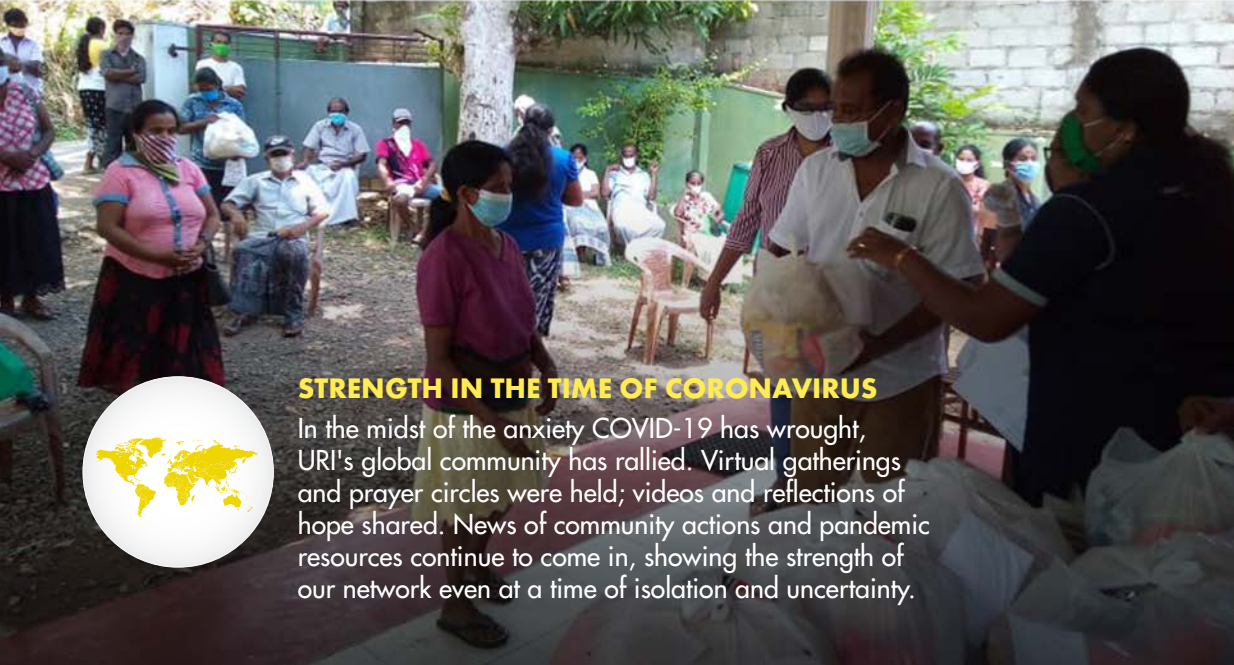


## Health and Social Services

URI members work to improve health and well-being of individuals and communities.

LEARN MORE

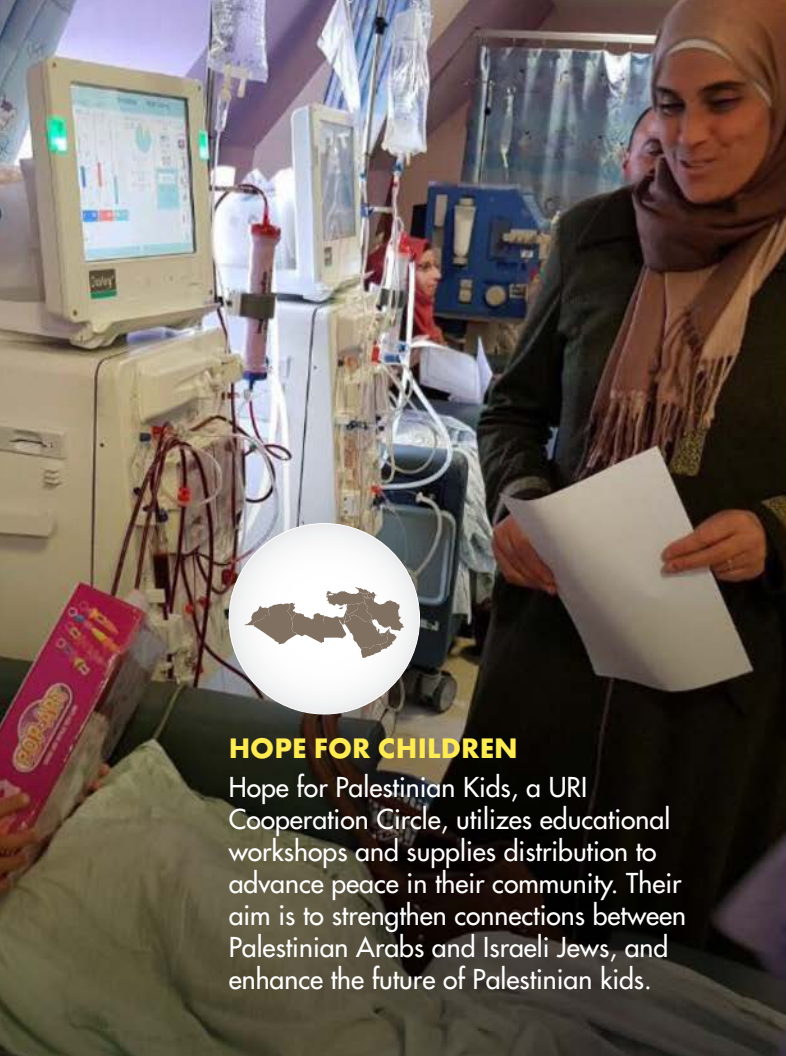
[uri.org/healthandsocialservices](http://uri.org/healthandsocialservices)



### STRENGTH IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

In the midst of the anxiety COVID-19 has wrought, URI's global community has rallied. Virtual gatherings and prayer circles were held; videos and reflections of hope shared. News of community actions and pandemic resources continue to come in, showing the strength of our network even at a time of isolation and uncertainty.





### HOPE FOR CHILDREN

Hope for Palestinian Kids, a URI Cooperation Circle, utilizes educational workshops and supplies distribution to advance peace in their community. Their aim is to strengthen connections between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews, and enhance the future of Palestinian kids.



### SAVING LIVES

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



## Environment

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

LEARN MORE  
[uri.org/environment](http://uri.org/environment)



### TOGETHER FOR WATER

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, a URI Cooperation Circle launched by UNICEF, brings together community members and faith leaders with the mission of ensuring access to clean, healthy and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene.







### A GLOBAL ISSUE

URI's Environmental Network serves as a resource and point of connection for environmentally focused Cooperation Circles. To date, more than 300 URI member groups are working on global and local environmental issues.



### PLANTING FOR CHANGE

Cooperation Circles in Malawi, Nigeria, and across the continent are working together to address environmental issues through tree-planting initiatives, clean-up service projects, and sanitation seminars.



# Conflict Transformation

URI members work on conflict transformation/peacebuilding at a human level, beyond stereotypes, to build foundations for lasting peace.

LEARN MORE

[uri.org/peacebuilding](http://uri.org/peacebuilding)



## JOURNEY FOR PEACE

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





## PREVENTING VIOLENCE - ENDING CONFLICT

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



## PEACE THROUGH ACTION

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

# IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## The Principle 19 Project

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

Learn more at [uri.org/P19](http://uri.org/P19)



"We are committed to organizational learning and adaptation."

— Principle 19 from the URI Charter





## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

Sign up at [uri.org/engage](https://uri.org/engage)





Stories that Inspire

About URI

Donate

## The Power of Story

Learn more about the everyday visionaries of URI

Watch the Preview

# VISIONARIES

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

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

Learn more at [uri.org/inspire](http://uri.org/inspire)





EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

... Poorst...  
... & COSMETOLOG...  
... CRAFTS  
... FASHION DESIGNING  
... RACY Etc.  
... : byec@aficad.org

# STORIES FOR PEACE

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

## Stories for Peace will:

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

# Our Leadership

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

## URI Global Council of Trustees

### CHAIR

2016-2020

Kiran Bali, MBE JP, United Kingdom

### AT-LARGE TRUSTEES

2016 – 2020

Becky Burad, USA

Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, USA

Elder Donald Frew, USA

*on-going*

Hereditary Chief Phil Lane Jr., Canada

Milka Wambui Ngige, Kenya

Swamini Adityananda Saraswati, India

Sok Sidon, Cambodia

### EXECUTIVE TRUSTEES

The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian Jr., USA

The Right Rev. William E. Swing, USA

### AFRICA

2018 – 2022

Fr. John Ng'oma, Malawi

The Right Rev. Macleord Baker Ochola II, Uganda

The Honorable Elisha Buba Yero, Nigeria

### ASIA

2018 – 2022

Ravindra Kandage, Sri Lanka

Rev. Kalyan Kumar Kisku, Pakistan

Dr. C.N.N. Raju, India

### EUROPE

2018 – 2022

Daniel Eror, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Rev. Hierodeacon Petar Gramatikov, Bulgaria

Marianne Horling, Germany

Duncan Wielzen, Netherlands (Ex-Officio)

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

2016 – 2020

Salette Aquino, Brazil

Sofia Painiqueo, Chile

Rev. David Limo Pajar, Peru

2020 – 2024

Salette Aquino, Brazil

Rosa Delia Quizhpe Macas, Ecuador

Francisco Morales Ventosa, Argentina

### MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

2016 – 2020

Dr. Ahmed Osama Aboudoma, Egypt

Naoufal El Hammoumi, Morocco

Ameeneh Ezzat Yaqoob, Jordan

2020 – 2024

Anwar Dahak, Yemen

Naoufal El Hammoumi, Morocco

Dr. Omar Tayeh, Jordan

### MULTIREGION

2016 – 2020

Suchith Abeyewickreme, Sri Lanka

Elana Rozenman, Israel

Audri Scott Williams, USA

2020 – 2024

Perri (P.K.) McCary, USA

Morgana Sythove, Netherlands

Issac Thomas, India

### NORTH AMERICA

2016 – 2020

Adeola Fearon, USA (Ex-Officio)

Fred Fielding, USA

Johnny Martin, USA

Valeria Vergani, Canada

2020 – 2024

Geneva Blackmer, USA

Adeola Fearon, USA (Ex-Officio)

Fred Fielding, USA

Valeria Vergani, Canada

### SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

2018 – 2022

Dr. Potre Diramplan-Diampuan, Philippines

Peter Mousaferiadis, Australia

Bishop Stephen L. Villaester, Philippines

## URI President's Council

### CHAIR

John Weiser

### PRESIDENT AND FOUNDING TRUSTEE

The Right Rev. William E. Swing

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.

### HONORARY MEMBERS

William K. Bowes Jr. (In Memoriam)

Margaret G. Gill (In Memoriam)

Rupert H. Johnson Jr.

Connie Lurie

Archibald McClure

Dame Charlotte Mailliard Shultz

The Hon. George P. Shultz

Chandler Tagliabue

Paul Tagliabue

Kat Taylor



## MEMBERS

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Daisy Berexa  
Peter Carpenter  
J. Robert Coleman Jr.  
Mary Cranston  
Julia L. Davidson  
Donald Derheim  
Sarah Freitag  
William P. Fuller  
Dr. Stephen P. Gill  
Jill H. Kramer  
The Hon. Richard Livermore  
Robert Lurie  
George Marcus  
Lisa Meaney  
David Newson  
Rabbi Stephen S. Pearce  
Suzanne E. Siskel  
Roselyne Chroman Swig

## EX-OFFICIO

Kiran Bali, MBE JP  
Chair, URI Global Council of Trustees

## URI Individual Membership Group

### LEADS

David Newson  
Barbara Shannon  
The Right Rev. William E. Swing

### MEMBERS

Preeta D. Bansal  
Daisy Berexa  
Donald Derheim

Sarah Freitag  
William P. Fuller  
Judith Gadaldi  
Stacy Holland  
The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.  
Jill H. Kramer  
John Weiser

## URI Foundation, Inc Board of Directors

### CHAIR

Rabbi Doug Kahn

### VICE-CHAIR

David Steirman

### MEMBERS

Becky Burad  
Julia Davidson  
James D. Falaschi  
Susan Cook Hoganson  
The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian Jr. (Ex-Officio)  
Karen Pajarillo  
Keley Petersen (Ex-Officio)  
Peter Phleger, Esq. (Ex-Officio)  
Swamini Adityananda Saraswati  
Barbara Shannon  
The Right Rev. William E. Swing (Ex-Officio)  
John Weiser

## URI Foundation, Inc. Investment Committee

### CHAIR

Keley Petersen

### MEMBERS

Shilpa Andalkar

Jennifer Ayer  
Craig T. Ayers, CFA  
Lauriann Delay, CFA  
Neil Jubaili  
The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.  
Kevin D. Rinow

## URI Staff

### EXECUTIVE STAFF

The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.,  
Executive Director

The Right Rev. William E. Swing,  
President and Founding Trustee

### REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Karen Baresché, URI Africa –  
Southern Africa

Samira Baručija, URI Multiregion  
Biswadeb Chakraborty, URI Asia –  
India East Zone and Bangladesh

Father James Channan, URI Asia – Pakistan  
Subhi Dhupar, URI Asia – India North Zone

The Hon. Mussie Hailu, URI Africa Regional  
Director and URI Representative at the  
African Union

Dr. Emmanuel Ivorgba, URI Africa –  
West Africa

Dr. Abraham Karickam, URI Asia –  
India South Zone

Mamoun Khreisat, URI Middle East and  
North Africa

Qutub Jehan Kidwai, URI Asia –  
India West Zone

Despina Namwembe, URI Africa –  
Great Lakes

Musa Sanguila, URI Southeast Asia and  
the Pacific – Central Zone

Sothearat Seoung, URI Southeast Asia and  
the Pacific – West Zone

Tahil Sharma, URI North America  
Mahamoud Sougueh, URI Africa – The Horn  
Karimah Stauch, URI Europe  
Dr. Enoé Texier, URI Latin America and  
the Caribbean

## URI AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The Hon. Mussie Hailu, URI Representative at  
the UN and the African Union, and Former  
Ambassador

Monica Willard, URI Representative to the  
United Nations in New York

## GLOBAL SUPPORT OFFICE

Pamela H. Banks, Director of Finance and  
Administration

Biff Barnard, Director of Institutional  
Advancement

Diana Conan, Director of Development  
Maria Crespo, Director of Cooperation  
Circle Support

Gaea Denker, Communications Manager  
Ezra Fairley-Collins, Coordinator of  
Individual Membership Development

The Hon. Mussie Hailu, Director of Global  
Partnerships  
Sally Mahé, Senior Consultant

Nosa Okunmwendia, Senior Accountant

Sarah Oliver, Global Youth Coordinator  
Isabelle Ortega-Lockwood, Director of  
Global Communications and Strategic  
Planning

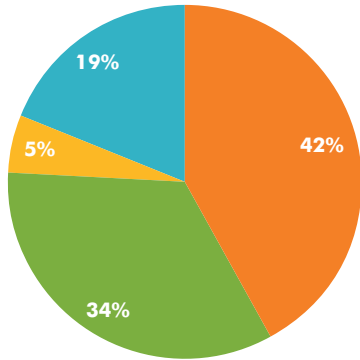
Alice Swett, Director of Global Programs  
The Rev. Lauren Van Ham, Climate Action  
Coordinator

Matthew Youde, Associate Director of  
Global Programs

# Global Efficiency

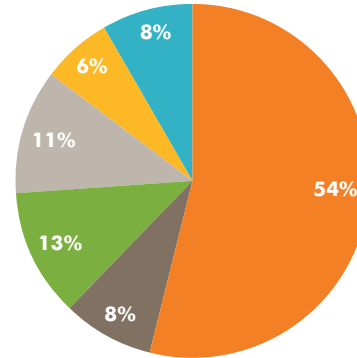
## Key Revenue and Expenses Information for year ended December 31, 2019\*

**TOTAL REVENUE\*\***  
\$3,728,346



Individuals	●	\$1,569,708
Foundations/Corporations	●	\$1,259,171
Fundraising Event	●	\$202,658
Special Funds	●	\$696,809

**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
\$3,727,866



Global Community Outreach	●	\$2,017,801
Global Council	●	\$306,399
Communications	●	\$440,356
Fundraising	●	\$420,751
Management & General	●	\$236,569
Education & Outreach	●	\$305,990

\* Unaudited. Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.

\*\* URI also received \$1,318,974 as a donor/Board restricted contribution to the endowment, quasi-endowment, and reserves. This amount is not included in the 2019 total revenue.



# SUPPORT OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

## IMPACT POSITIVE CHANGE

Build our future together by investing in URI's global network. Be a catalyst for change and impact URI's efforts in communities around the world.

Express your commitment on the enclosed envelope or on URI's website.

**Every contribution matters.**  
**Every contribution accelerates peace.**

### Invest in URI's Future

#### Multi-Year Giving

Pledge your annual contribution for several years.

#### Monthly Giving Circle

Commit to ongoing giving and contribute your donation in installments

#### Legacy Circle Giving

Consider including URI in your estate plans and inform URI about it.

#### Endowment Support

Contact the URI Development Department with an interest in supporting URI with a significant gift.

### Enhance URI's Visibility

#### Partnership Bridgebuilder

Help URI connect and develop partnerships with like-minded organizations including corporate and foundation connections.

#### Social Media Influencer

Spread the word about URI to your friends and colleagues through social media.

#### Connection Facilitator

Host an event to introduce URI to friends and colleagues; help raise awareness.

#### Media Outreach

Boost URI's visibility by connecting URI with local, national and international media.

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

The purpose of URI is to promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings.



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**UNITED RELIGIONS  
INITIATIVE**

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+1 415-561-2300 [info@uri.org](mailto:info@uri.org) [uri.org](http://uri.org)

URI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which relies on individual contributions to further its global efforts.