



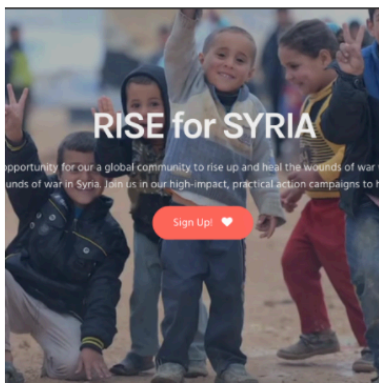
Multiregion Quarterly Newsletter

July - Sept 2017
Volume 1: Issue 3

The Multiregion of the United Religions Initiative is made up of Cooperation Circles who either have members in more than one region, or are focused on issues or topics that are global in scope. The Multiregion creates a supportive environment to build relationships, offers opportunities for connection and in-depth dialogue, provides training, and enhances mutual exchange among groups pursuing common themes.

International Day of Peace 2017

The Multiregion's 3rd quarter newsletter is devoted entirely to highlighting the various colorful, melodious, prayerful and celebratory ways that Cooperation Circles celebrated the International Day of Peace on or around September 21. **This year 84% of active CCs in Multiregion celebrated IDP in some way!** Seven Cooperation Circles received grants up to \$200 to support their IDP events. Bows and gratitude to all! A special thank you goes out to the Multiregion IDP committee: Monica Willard, Laurence Singer, Sowmya Ayyar and Suchith Abeyewickreme. Enjoy the glimpses below into IDP Multiregion 2017.



UNIFY's Rise for Syria campaign led a global synchronized prayer from inside a Syrian refugee camp (Jordan).



WEDO Global organized a cross-cultural event with games, sharing and hijab-tying lessons (Hong Kong).



Tamera & Grace hosted a "Second Matrix" seminar and 3 day walk along Portuguese coastline. Stories and photos forthcoming. (Portugal)



Compassion for All Living Beings hosted a vegan dinner at the URI Global Gathering called "Together for Peace and Compassion: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All Living Beings." (Sarajevo, Bosnia).



Dr. T. D. Singh Science and Spirituality: On the occasion of International day of peace, a two hour seminar was held on Science and Scriptures at DRIEMS group of Institutions, Cuttack on Sept 21, 2017, with four speakers. About hundred students and faculty members participated. (India).



Global Youth Ambassadors hosted three Children's Workshops for children of different faiths (Bulgaria, Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina).



Golden Rule CC planted a peace pole in the city council of Juba, South Sudan to commemorate an agreement signed between URI-Africa & World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) to work in partnership together to promote a culture of peace in Africa through the universal peace prayer (Juba, South Sudan).



Hope in Life hosted a fundraiser for Hurricane victims, including prayers, meditation, and dances from different cultural traditions (California, USA).



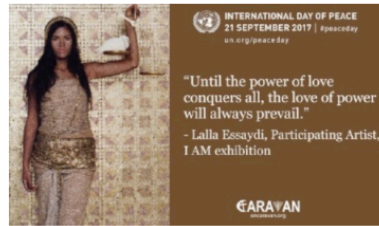
URI at the United Nations and Women's Interfaith Network of URI (WIN-URI): The International Day of Peace was observed with a World Peace Flag Ceremony with 80 people from 40 countries at the URI Global Council and Staff meeting on September 15th. (Sarajevo, Bosnia).



Contemplative Life created a site to focus on IDP information and activities and invited the Contemplative Life community, URI supporters and others to visit and participate in a day of meditation and prayer on Sept 21st (Global).



Global Interfaith WASH Alliance gathered 500 citizens and saints on the holy banks of the River Ganga for water blessing ceremony and prayers in honor of IDP. (Rishikesh, India)



CARAVAN Arts launched a 4-day social media campaign for the UN International Day of Peace, highlighting a variety of artists from the 'I AM' exhibit (Washington DC / Global).



Trail of Dreams, LGBTQ, Hidden Seeds & NowTime Radio jointly hosted an event which culminates in the planting of a Peace Pole in the city park. (Alabama, USA).



Global Youth CC hosted a webinar discussing actions which can be taken by youths to ensure and pave the way towards a peaceful world. (Virtual/Global).



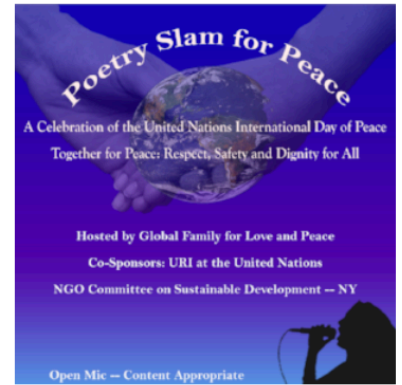
Prafull Oorja's Melodies & Meditation event offered an evening of soulful music and soft melodies. It culminated in a peace meditation where the participants were guided to pray for love, peace and harmony in the world. (Bangalore, India)



Faiths Without Borders: hosted a seminar on dialogue and hope at a local University (Finland)



Apithan Ministries traveled approximately 250 miles to several Animal facilities facilitating six meditation blessing ceremonies for "International Peace begins with all Animals." (North Carolina, USA).



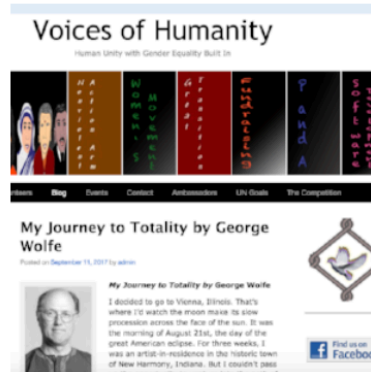
Global Family for Love and Peace hosted a Poetry Slam for Peace (New York, USA).



Think Peace International sponsored an inter-generational poetry slam at the University Museum at Texas Southern University, where the community from around the city shared the meaning of SAFETY, RESPECT and DIGNITY FOR ALL. (Texas, USA).



Kids4Peace, for the third year, encouraged all its participants to wear their program t-shirts to school, to create space for conversation about peacebuilding (Israel, Palestine, USA).



Voices of Humanity posted prayers for IDP on its website. (Virtual/Global).



Hope in Life co-sponsored "Peace Sunday" event at a local mosque with One Global Family Foundation. There was spiritual discussion in circles; prayers were chanted from different faiths and religions. Persian food was served. (California, USA).



Wisdom Circle Ministries invited online chain of Prayers, Poems, Thoughts about Peace for International Day of Peace. (Virtual/Global).



SYNC for Harmony participated in Synchronized Global Meditation. People around the world gather within the first half hour UTC to pray and meditate simultaneously. (Virtual/Global).



Global Youth Movement's "Peace for Humanity" event included a parade, chain prayer, and visit to old-age home (Kerala, India).



Global Healing presented on the model of the International Institute for Peace through Tourism, followed by case studies of Track II diplomacy via tourism. (Florida, USA).

September 15, 2017

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE HUMAN FAMILY

A Plea for the Sake of Us All

from Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

Voices For a World Free of Nuclear Weapons Cooperation Circle (Initiative) affiliate, a small group of diplomats, senior government clergy, scientists, and others (see the roster below). They meet on world's nuclear threat and wrote this letter to URI groups in 102 of the human family. The letter commemorates August 6, 2017, the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima.

On September 21, 2017, millions of people the world over will be celebrating International Day of Peace. It is a perfect opportunity for you to

The Interfaith Observer republished a statement on Nuclear disarmament generated by **Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons** called "Open Letter to Humanity," in honor of IDP (Virtual/Global).



Circle for Peace and Nonviolent

Education announced on IDP the launch of its 9th International Conference of Peace and Nonviolent Action, scheduled for December 2017. The theme is Science, Spirituality and Universal Peace. (India).



Women & Spirituality CC representative Betsy Stang supporting Monica Willard at the UN on International Day of Peace. (New York, USA).



Multiregion Trustee Suchith Abeyewickreme presented on the Sri Lankan conflict and peacebuilding interventions to 30+ plus professionals (Zagreb, Croatia).



Circle of Healers community of reiki healers around the world held a Healing Prayer in honor of IDP. (Global/Universal).



The Chaplaincy Institute celebrated IDP with an Ordination and Commissioning Ceremony. Three spiritual directors received their certificates of completion, and five interfaith seminaries were ordained as interfaith clergy. All 8 are called to be religious leaders and spiritual care providers, taking a vow to bring peace and sustainability to the world. (California, USA).