



**MOBILIZING  
THE COLLECTIVE  
POWER OF  
INTERFAITH  
CHANGE-MAKERS  
AROUND THE  
WORLD**

## ABOUT URI



The United Religions Initiative (URI) is a grassroots, bridge-building organization that unites people of all faiths to create an enduring global force for good.

We are people of passion and initiative joined in local interfaith communities of action called Cooperation Circles. The name tells the story: Through hundreds of self-funded Cooperation Circles around the world, half a million people are working together to...

**TRANSFORM** RELIGIOUS TENSION INTO POSITIVE, PEACEFUL CHANGE.

**ADDRESS** URGENT HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS.

**TACKLE** POVERTY, SOCIAL CONFLICT AND DISEASE.

**BUILD** CULTURES OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND HEALING.

**IN THOUSANDS OF WAYS, URI IS OPENING HEARTS AND MINDS— AND OUR SCOPE AND IMPACT KEEP GROWING**



MANY FAITHS  
ONE PURPOSE

- URI was formed in 2000, uniting people from more than 100 spiritual traditions in ongoing interfaith cooperation; today we bridge **MORE THAN 200 RELIGIOUS, SPIRITUAL AND INDIGENOUS TRADITIONS**
- When our charter was signed, we had 83 Cooperation Circles in 30 countries. Now, entering our 10th year, we have more than **500 COOPERATION CIRCLES WORKING IN 76 COUNTRIES**, including 23 of the world's hot spots of religiously motivated conflict
- Our network of grassroots leaders continues to expand, growing at the rate of **10 TO 15 NEW COOPERATION CIRCLES EVERY MONTH**

URI'S WORK TOUCHES THE  
LIVES OF MORE THAN

**2.5** MILLION  
PEOPLE

# PEACE URI UNITES PEOP

## MIDDLE EAST

### A voice for moderation

In East Jerusalem, the Wasatia Cooperation Circle is spreading values of moderation, justice, fairness and balance as reflected in the three Abrahamic religions, proving that radical extremists do not speak for everyone.

## NORTHERN UGANDA

### Designing a culture of peace

In a nation where civil war has raged for more than 20 years, the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative Cooperation Circle is uniting Muslims, Catholics, Orthodox Christians and Anglicans to work for peace on the community, national and international level; the group is also actively aiding those displaced by conflict.

## SRI LANKA

### Enemies no more

Amid deep-seated ethnic conflict, the Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena Cooperation Circle has been an incubator for some 10,000 Peace Brigades that engage more than 130,000 youths; the Peace Brigades transform old animosities between the Sinhalese and Tamils into cooperative action reaching into all parts of the country.

# LE OF ALL FAITHS IN

## SPAIN

### Seeds of cooperation

Increased immigration and economic uncertainty have heightened inter-religious tensions in urban areas throughout Europe. UNESCO Center of Catalonia has responded with a model program for urban conflict mediation—one that builds understanding through interfaith dialogue, education and civic engagement.

## PAKISTAN

### The right to an education

In the Swat Valley, where the Taliban banned girls' education and destroyed schools, the Toba Tek Singh Cooperation Circle has rallied both Muslims and Christians to promote education for girls as a fundamental right under the Pakistani Constitution.

## LATIN AMERICA

### Learning from indigenous peoples

All across Central and South America, members of indigenous communities are working through URI Cooperation Circles to preserve their traditions, heal the wounds of oppression, and share ancient wisdom on protecting the earth.

CTIVE POWER OF INTER  
ANSFORM

# LOCAL ACTION FOR

## MEASURABLY IMPROVING

IN ZONES OF RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED CONFLICT AND CIVIL UNREST ALL AROUND THE WORLD, URI COOPERATION CIRCLES ARE MAKING A TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE BY:

- Building schools and clinics
- Distributing food, medicine, and mosquito nets
- Reintegrating refugees displaced by civil war
- Caring for children orphaned by war and AIDS
- Providing job training and resources

### INDIA

#### The voices of a new generation

The Ektaan Cooperation Circle, a cross-caste group of musicians and performance artists, is using music and drama as a platform for social change and sponsoring computer-training programs to help young people gain employment.

### UNITED STATES

#### Combating global climate change

Through the leadership of the California Interfaith Power and Light Cooperation Circle, 500 U.S.-based congregations have joined forces on strategies to stop global warming, organizing a national campaign now active in 30 states.

FAITH CHANGE-MAKER  
ATIONS

# GLOBAL CHANGE

## LIVES

- Advocating for civil rights and education
- Countering oppression of women and caste discrimination
- Promoting pragmatic solutions to climate change, water needs and deforestation
- Facilitating reconciliation among combatants
- Building cohesive communities that transcend religious differences
- Tackling economic and political inequalities that spark conflict

### ETHIOPIA & UGANDA

#### Toward a billion trees

Helping to hold the line against desertification of the continent, several African Cooperation Circles have worked together to plant thousands of trees as part of the United Nations' Billion Tree Campaign.



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URI IS A GLOBAL CATALYST FOR PROJECTS THAT FOSTER PEACE AND MEASURABLY IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES. WE MAKE THE MOST OF OUR RESOURCES, OPERATING WITH A LEAN STRUCTURE, LEVERAGING EFFORTS OF PUBLIC- AND PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTNERS, AND ENLISTING VOLUNTEERS AS PROJECT LEADERS. WHEN YOU GIVE YOUR TIME OR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO URI, YOU ARE MAKING A HIGH-YIELDING INVESTMENT IN A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE WORLD.

JOIN US!

**TO CONNECT  
WITH URI'S  
NETWORK  
OF CHANGE-  
MAKERS:**

**DONATE**

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO  
URI AT [WWW.URI.ORG](http://WWW.URI.ORG)

**START**

A COOPERATION CIRCLE

**EXPLORE**

OUR OPTIONS FOR PLANNED GIVING

FOLLOW US

