

A close-up photograph of a person's face, heavily covered in multi-colored glitter. The person's eyes are closed, and their skin is a mix of purple, blue, and black tones, with the glitter adding vibrant splashes of red, orange, yellow, and green. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the sparkle of the glitter.

A BOLD SPIRIT

A collage of diverse people smiling, with colorful geometric shapes in the background. The people are shown from the chest up, looking towards the camera. The background features overlapping triangles in shades of blue, green, yellow, and orange. The text 'A BOLD DIRECTION' is prominently displayed in the upper left quadrant.

A BOLD DIRECTION

From the start, URI stepped onto the global stage with purpose and principle. The spirit of URI is made up of people who dare to believe that people of all beliefs can work together to make a better world. Today, this bold leadership is needed on a much greater scale.

At a time of widening division, URI unites. At a time of rising violence, URI promotes peace. At a time of increasing humanitarian crises, URI champions justice. This year, URI has achieved more impact than ever with 140 new member groups (called Cooperation Circles) and expansion to new countries such as Saudi Arabia, Macedonia and Italy. In this report, we share a few stories of impact that give you a glimpse of the extraordinary work and lives of URI members.



PEOPLE UNITING

People Uniting speaks to URI's core purpose and principles. To serve this growing global movement, URI has launched this new campaign to raise awareness worldwide and to secure funding for the future. We must act now to ensure that URI will have the resources to bring more peace, justice and healing to a world so desperately in need of the strength, wisdom and spirit of the people of URI.

Kiran Bali

Kiran Bali, MBE JP
URI Global Council Chairperson

Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.

The Reverend Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.
URI Executive Director

William E. Swing

The Right Reverend William E. Swing
URI President and Founder

We Are PEOPLE UNITING

952 Cooperation Circles (CCs) in 107 Countries*



UNITED RELIGIONS
INITIATIVE

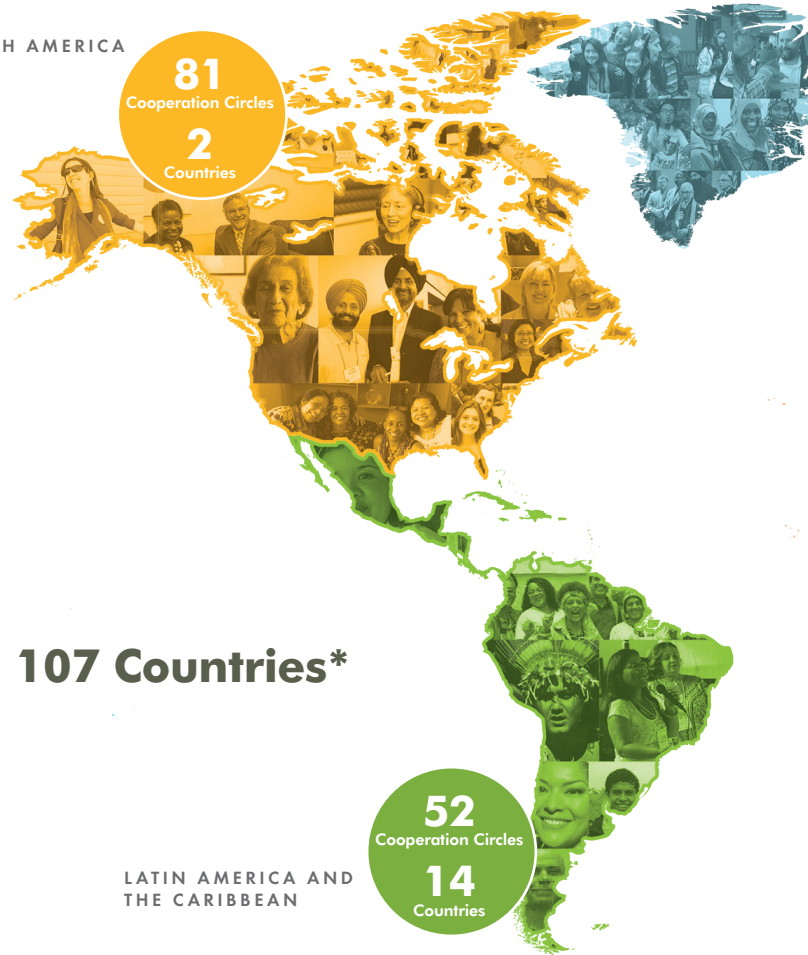
*Numbers as of September 2018

NORTH AMERICA

81
Cooperation Circles
2
Countries

LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN

52
Cooperation Circles
14
Countries



EUROPE

58
Cooperation Circles
21
Countries

ASIA

347
Cooperation Circles
10
Countries

82
Cooperation Circles
14
Countries

MIDDLE EAST AND
NORTH AFRICA

218
Cooperation Circles
32
Countries

AFRICA

52
Cooperation Circles
8
Countries

SOUTHEAST ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC

MULTIREGION**

62
Cooperation Circles

**Cooperation Circles with members in more than one region or whose work is global in scope.



PEOPLE UNITING

Growing and Sustaining URI

The People Uniting Campaign will ensure long-term financial sustainability, meet future growth needs, and increase URI's impact in the world.

Campaign Goals:

- ✦ Create a sustainable financial future for URI
- ✦ Enable URI to further grow and meet the world's needs in URI's Action Areas
- ✦ Reach new communities and increase the number of URI Cooperation Circles
- ✦ Build the capacity of URI Cooperation Circles to create change in their communities





WE MUST ACT NOW

Growth and Impact

- ▶ Increase the number of Cooperation Circles
- ▶ Expand to new countries
- ▶ Grow donor members worldwide

Global Connections

- ▶ Improve global and regional communications
- ▶ Develop new partnerships
- ▶ Elevate visibility worldwide

Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building

- ▶ Raise a \$50 million endowment
- ▶ Invigorate leadership training and development
- ▶ Broaden national and international development programs



“The success of this violence relies on its dehumanizing power - turning us against each other by separating the human family into warring tribes. Always remember there are billions more people around the world who are peace-builders than there are people-destroyers.”

—URI Executive Director Victor Kazanjian

A BOLD STAND

When Father Chito and his parishioners were taken hostage by ISIS-Maute gunmen in the Philippines, the URI global community joined in an interfaith call for justice.

Despite playing no role in the conflict, these parishioners were used as human shields and threatened with death unless the government recalled the forces it had deployed against the militants.

Father Teresito “Chito” Suganob is a longtime leader and an active member of the URI Cooperation Circle

Pakigdait, Inc.

On the Muslim majority island of Mindanao, Christians and Muslims formed this group to help heal lasting wounds of conflict and improve socioeconomic conditions.

Potre Diampuan, URI Global Council Trustee from the Philippines, described the ongoing crisis: “Right in my hometown of Marawi City in Mindanao in the Southern Philippines, terrorists (believed to be of different groups including ISIS) have attacked our city. They



burned down the buildings of one of the oldest schools, the priest’s residence and the city jail. They have overtaken the public hospital, have barricaded exit and entry points of the city, killed people, and taken hostages. One of those hostages is a beloved member of one of URI’s Cooperation Circles. Please

join us as we pray for his safety.”

Messages of peace poured in from URI’s members all over the world. URI released multiple press releases, joining voices with the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines in a

worldwide demand for the hostages’ release.

Thankfully, a grueling 117 days after his capture, Father Chito and his parishioners were released. He now chairs the Board of Trustees of Pakigdait, Inc. and continues to work for peace, justice and healing in the community.



Pakigdait, Inc. CC

Faith Traditions – Christianity: Baptist,
Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist;
Islam

URI holds the prestigious distinction of being a non-governmental organization (NGO) with consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and has long-standing partnerships with several other UN agencies.



Global Partnerships

URI is committed to pursuing partnerships with like-minded organizations. Collaboration illustrates an important next step for the interfaith movement – bringing together the collective strengths of many organizations to better achieve the shared goals of creating cultures of peace, justice and healing.

Two recent partnerships include:

URI and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

URI and UNFPA share a common commitment to human rights and, in particular, the rights of women and children. Both organizations promote efforts to educate and empower women and children around issues of health, equal rights, and protections. UNFPA has also played a key role in leading the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development, of which URI is a member. In 2018, URI and UNFPA signed a memorandum of understanding, which provides URI's grassroots groups, called Cooperation Circles, access to UNFPA's resources in areas of women's and youth empowerment, and will help UNFPA to be better connected to grassroots communities around the world.





URI's Rev. Victor Kazanjian Jr. and UNFPA's Dr. Natalia Kanem sign a memorandum of understanding in April 2018.



Participants of the Empowerment Plus interfaith action program in East Africa.

URI and Religious Freedom & Business Foundation (RFBF)

Earlier this year, URI and RFBF combined their efforts and rolled out Empowerment Plus in URI's Africa region. Ambassador Mussie Hailu, Continental Director for URI-Africa, leads the coordinated deployment with URI's Regional Coordinators through Launching Leaders Worldwide. *Empowerment Plus* is an interfaith action program teaching young adults how to apply spiritual principles in their personal and professional lives, helping them develop a faith-centered framework with a focus on giving back. Young adults from different faith groups partner together to carry out practical, interfaith actions ranging from jobs programs to service projects.

To inquire about potential partnerships with URI, email partnerships@uri.org.

Our Action Areas



Environment

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



Arts

Through creative expression and the arts, URI members leave lasting impact on their communities.



Women

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



Interfaith Dialogue

URI members are people of all beliefs working together toward common goals.



Education

Sharing knowledge and empowering communities with educational opportunities is key to URI.



Indigenous Peoples

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



Policy Advocacy

URI works at the policymaking level in partnership with UN and government agencies.

URI's Cooperation Circle members work on projects and programs that serve one or more of these 14 Action Areas. Read more at uri.org/what-we-do#action_areas



Peacebuilding

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



Health and Social Services

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



Human Rights

URI members advocate for and protect basic human rights around the world.



Youth

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



Media

URI members use multiple media channels to build peace and create lasting change.



Poverty Alleviation

URI members provide opportunities that lead to improving local economic options.



Community Building

Building strong and collaborative communities is at the core of URI's work.



CHALLENGING HATE

Fixing a Society Our Generation Didn't Break

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

If these young URI leaders weren't there, hatred would go unchallenged among school-aged children.

– The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, President and Founding Trustee

Growing up in a recently postwar society, Samira Fatma Baručija was bothered that there were no “facts” that all sides agreed upon; instead, every side had its own story. As she listened, she realized, “The common thread...is that we want our stories to be the last ones of this kind ever told.”

The answer was Youth for Peace, which Samira joined as an executive board member and peer educator. This youth-led URI Cooperation Circle is dedicated to fixing a fractured society that their generation wasn't responsible for breaking. The group promotes interfaith dialogue and cooperation, working to end violence through summer schools and peace-building programs. Young people have a chance to learn about each other's traditions, participate in each other's holidays, and forge lifelong friendships that will form the fabric of a peaceful society.



Youth for Peace CC

Faith Traditions – Agnostic; Christianity:
Catholic, Orthodox; Islam; Judaism



WOMEN INFLUENCING POLICY & ACTION

Empowering Women to Advocate for Reproductive Health

Mzuzu, Malawi

Our young women and girls will now understand systems, structures, laws, policies and strategic documents...I believe that many of them will benefit a lot from our work.

– District Youth Development Officer McNeil Shire commended PYAO on the project.

Phalombe Youth Arms Organisation (PYAO), a youth-led URI Cooperation Circle in Malawi, addresses the frustration that young women and girls' voices were not being heard, despite young people forming the

biggest percentage of the total population of Phalombe district.

Now the group is training young women (ages 10 to 24) to take on leadership roles in governance and policy advocacy. The women are developing their knowledge, authority, and networking power to influence key policies around sexual and reproductive health in Malawi.



Phalombe Youth Arms Organisation CC

Faith Traditions – Christianity: C.C.A.P, Catholic, Jehovah's Witness; Islam



THE CRISIS OF FAMILY SEPARATION

How Ordinary People Are Tackling the Immigration Crisis – And Succeeding

San Francisco, CA, USA

The children and families at the border want what our relatives who came here one or many generations ago wanted—to live without fear, to make decent lives for themselves and their children, and to fulfill the promise written on the Statue of Liberty.

— Rita Semel, former URI Global Council Chair and longtime supporter

On June 21, 2018, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, a URI Cooperation Circle, co-sponsored a 300-person

vigil for children separated from their parents at the U.S. border. Speakers from Muslim, Bahá'í, Buddhist, Hindu, Brahma Kumaris, and multiple Christian denominations passionately addressed the crisis.

URI's press release, "How Ordinary People Are Tackling the Immigration Crisis – And Succeeding," urged readers not to get desensitized by the negative news, but to act. It was published by 198 news outlets, reaching 35 million people in eight countries.



San Francisco Interfaith Council CC

Faith Traditions – Christianity, Baha'í, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam, Spirituality



TOUCHING THE HEART

Preserving Shamanistic Rituals to Build Peace

Goiás, Brazil

Respect life, reject violence, be generous, listen to understand, preserve the planet, and rediscover solidarity.

— Principles of Caminhos da Terra

These are the six principles around which the Caminhos da Terra ("Paths of Earth") Cooperation Circle members structure their activities. Through art, spirituality, and consciousness-raising, their aim is to rescue the dignity of the beings that inhabit this Planet and the Cosmos, and to promote original wisdom through using

Shamanism as a way to build cultures of peace.

Their "Planet without Borders" project works across Brazil, Austria, Slovenia, Canada, and other countries, including Indigenous communities.

Isabel, a Cooperation Circle member who conducted an activity in which she talked about URI, played her drums and led a shamanic medicine wheel, said "It was one of the most touching experiences I've ever had."



Caminhos da Terra ("Paths of Earth") CC

Faith Traditions – Christianity: Catholic;
Indigenous: Shamanism; Spirituality: Spiritist, Spiritualist

Our Leadership

URI is sincerely grateful to our leaders for their bold commitment to grow and sustain URI.

URI Global Council

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United Kingdom

TREASURER

Becky Burad, USA

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Ravindra Kandage, Sri Lanka

SECRETARY

Audri Scott Williams, USA

PRESIDENT AND FOUNDING TRUSTEE

The Right Rev. William E. Swing,
USA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.,
USA

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Sri Lanka

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Egypt

Salette Aquino, Brazil

Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, USA

Dr. Potre Diramptan-Diampuan,
Philippines

Naoufal El Hammoumi, Morocco

Daniel Eror,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fred Fielding, USA

Elder Don Frew, USA

Rev. Heirodeacon Petar Gramatikov,
Bulgaria

Marianne Horling, Germany

Rev. Kalyan Kumar Kisku, India

Hereditary Chief Phil Lane Jr.,
Canada

Johnny Martin, USA

Peter Mousaferiadis, Australia

Wambui Ngige, Kenya

Fr. John Ng'oma, Malawi

The Right Rev. Macleord Baker
Ochola II, Uganda

Sofia Painiqueo, Chile

Rev. David Limo Pajar, Peru

Dr. C.N.N. Raju, India

Elana Rozenman, Israel

Swamini Adityananda Saraswati,
India

Sok Sidon, Cambodia

Valeria Vergani, Canada

Bishop Stephen L. Villaester,
Philippines

Ameenah Ezzat Yaqoob, Jordan

The Honorable Elisha Buba Yero,
Nigeria

URI President's Council

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John Weiser

PRESIDENT AND FOUNDING TRUSTEE

The Right Rev. William E. Swing

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.

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In Memoriam

Rupert Johnson Jr.

Archibald McClure

Dame Charlotte Mailliard Shultz

The Hon. George P. Shultz

Chandler Tagliabue

Paul Tagliabue

Kat Taylor

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Global Council Chair



URI Circles of Light Committee

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The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian Jr.

Keley Petersen

Richard O. Vandenberg Jr.

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 Barenshé,
URI Africa – Southern Africa

Biswadeb Chakraborty, URI Asia –
India East Zone and Bangladesh

Father James Channan,
URI Asia – Pakistan

Subhi Dhupar, URI Asia – India
North Zone and Afghanistan

Mussie Hailu, Regional Director for
URI Africa and Global Envoy of URI

Sari Heidenreich,
URI North America

Frederica Helmiere,
URI Multiregion

Emmanuel Ivorgba,
URI Africa – West Africa

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

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

Mahamoud Souguez,
URI Africa – The Horn

Karimah Stauch, URI Europe

Enoé Texier, URI Latin America and
the Caribbean

URI AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Mussie Hailu, URI Representative to
the United Nations in Nairobi and
Geneva and Global Envoy of URI

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

Linda Crawford, Administrative
Assistant to the President

Maria Crespo, Director of
Cooperation Circle Support

Gaea Denker,
Communications Manager

Dom Gelin, Office Manager and
Administrative Associate

Stefan Howard, Director of
Operations and Assistant to the
Executive Director

Myra Levy, Senior Accountant

Sally Mahé, Senior Consultant

Isabelle Ortega-Lockwood, Director
of Global Communications and
Strategic Planning

Jaya Reinhalter, Coordinator for US
Western States and Global Programs
Associate

Marina Shkurko, Development and
Finance Assistant

Alice Swett,
Director of Global Programs

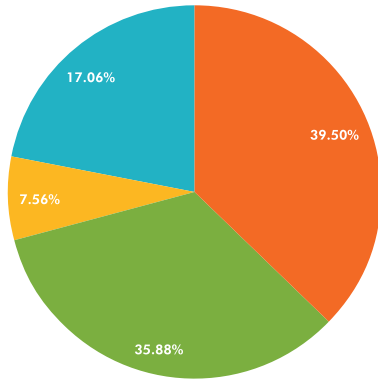
Matthew Youde, Associate Director
of Global Programs for Youth
Leadership Development

Global Efficiency

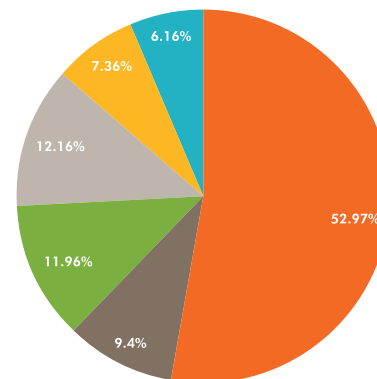
URI's efficiency is rewarded with the highest rating (★★★★) on Charity Navigator.

Key Revenue and Expense Information for year ended December 31, 2017*

TOTAL REVENUE**
\$3,897,737



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$3,882,486



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

** URI also received \$10,200,628.61 as a donor/Board restricted contribution to the endowment and quasi-endowment. This amount is not included in the 2017 total revenue.

GIVE BOLDLY

Make a bold statement by joining the People Uniting Campaign. Invest in URI's future efforts to impact communities around the world. Be a catalyst for change and actively enhance the visibility of URI. Express your commitment on the enclosed envelope or on URI's website.

**Every contribution matters.
Every connection unites us.**

Invest in Our Future

Endowment Support

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

Legacy Circle Giving

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

Monthly Giving Circle

Commit to on-going giving and contribute your donation in installments.

Multi-Year Giving

Pledge your annual contribution for several years.

uri.org/donate

Enhance Our Visibility

Social Media Influencer

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

Connection Facilitator

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

Partnership Bridge

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

Media Outreach

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

WHAT UNITES US



PREAMBLE

We, people of diverse religions, spiritual expressions and indigenous traditions throughout the world, hereby establish the United Religions Initiative 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.

We respect the uniqueness of each tradition, and differences of practice or belief.

We value voices that respect others, and believe that sharing our values and wisdom can lead us to act for the good of all.

We believe that our religious, spiritual lives, rather than dividing us, guide us to build community and respect for one another.

Therefore, as interdependent people rooted in our traditions, we now unite for the benefit of our Earth community.

We unite to build cultures of peace and justice.

We unite to heal and protect the Earth.

We unite to build safe places for conflict resolution, healing and reconciliation.

We unite to support freedom of religion and spiritual expression, and the rights of all individuals and peoples as set forth in international law.

We unite in responsible cooperative action to bring the wisdom and values of our religions, spiritual expressions and indigenous traditions to bear on the economic, environmental, political and social challenges facing our Earth community.

We unite to provide a global opportunity for par-

ticipation by all people, especially by those whose voices are not often heard.

We unite to celebrate the joy of blessings and the light of wisdom in both movement and stillness.

We unite to use our combined resources only for nonviolent, compassionate action, to awaken to our deepest truths, and to manifest love and justice among all life in our Earth community.

PRINCIPLES

1. The URI is a bridge-building organization, not a religion.

2. We respect the sacred wisdom of each religion, spiritual expression and indigenous tradition.

3. We respect the differences among religions, spiritual expressions and indigenous traditions.

4. We encourage our members to deepen their roots in their own tradition.

5. We listen and speak with respect to deepen mutual understanding and trust.

6. We give and receive hospitality.

7. We seek and welcome the gift of diversity and model practices that do not discriminate.

8. We practice equitable participation of women and men in all aspects of the URI.

9. We practice healing and reconciliation to resolve conflict without resorting to violence.

10. We act from sound ecological practices to protect and preserve the Earth for both present and future generations.

11. We seek and offer cooperation with other interfaith efforts.

12. We welcome as members all individuals, organizations and associations who subscribe to the Preamble, Purpose and Principles.

13. We have the authority to make decisions at the most local level that includes all the relevant and affected parties.

14. We have the right to organize in any manner, at any scale, in any area, and around any issue or activity which is relevant to and consistent with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles.

15. Our deliberations and decisions shall be made at every level by bodies and methods that fairly represent the diversity of affected interests and are not dominated by any.

16. We (each part of the URI) shall relinquish only such autonomy and resources as are essential to the pursuit of the Preamble, Purpose and Principles.

17. We have the responsibility to develop financial and other resources to meet the needs of our part, and to share financial and other resources to help meet the needs of other parts.

18. We maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct, prudent use of resources, and fair and accurate disclosure of information.

19. We are committed to organizational learning and adaptation.

20. We honor the richness and diversity of all languages and the right and responsibility of participants to translate and interpret the Charter, Articles, Bylaws and related documents in accordance with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles, and the spirit of the United Religions Initiative.

21. Members of the URI shall not be coerced to participate in any ritual or be proselytized.



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uriglobal](https://twitter.com/uriglobal)



[facebook.com/
unitedreligionsinitiative](https://facebook.com/unitedreligionsinitiative)



youtube.com/uriglobal



instagram.com/uriglobal

Holi, a Hindu spring festival, is also known as the festival of colors or the festival of love. URI Cooperation Circles in 107 countries celebrate many occasions and holy days throughout the year, holding space for peaceful gatherings in their communities.



**UNITED RELIGIONS
INITIATIVE**

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