



the  
power  
of  
we



UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE

We, people of diverse religions, spiritual expressions and indigenous traditions throughout the world, come together 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.

— Excerpt from the Preamble of URI's Charter

# we

are a global, grassroots network  
of people like you connecting  
through Cooperation Circles and  
building coalitions that transform  
communities around the world

There is no we  
without you



more than  
**100**  
countries

URI has grown to include nearly 1,000 Cooperation Circles in more than 100 countries in what is the largest grassroots interfaith organization in the world

# Cooperation Circles: The Heart of URI

Cooperation Circles are self-organizing groups, ranging in size from a minimum of seven members to tens of thousands, representing at least three religions, spiritual expressions or indigenous traditions.

Cooperation Circles create opportunities among people of all faiths and traditions to address the most pressing issues facing their communities, including conflict transformation, education, environment, human rights, interreligious dialogue, peacebuilding, poverty alleviation, women's empowerment, youth leadership and more.

URI's Cooperation Circles comprise a worldwide network, which is supported by a democratically-elected Global Council of Trustees, a global office based in San Francisco, USA, regional offices and contacts in more than 30 countries, representatives at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Nairobi, and dedicated donors and volunteers.





URI Cooperation Circles intervene in violent areas by engaging combatants, using conflict resolution and peacebuilding strategies to build relationships and to create the conditions for lasting peace.

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EXAMPLE: A Cooperation Circle in the Philippines organizes workshops on interreligious understanding and violence prevention between Christians and Muslims.



Where the structural violence of poverty and injustice cause conflict, URI Cooperation Circles respond with action including economic development, education, environmental sustainability, women's empowerment and youth leadership.

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EXAMPLE: URI volunteers in Pakistan conduct leadership training for at-risk youth, thwarting efforts by the Taliban and other radicalizing forces to recruit them.



Where the legacy of violence and war has left deep scars, URI Cooperation Circles are creating diverse coalitions of people who are working to rebuild relationships, communities and countries.

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EXAMPLE: In Uganda, URI's regional office works with grassroots leaders to help those hit hardest by a virtually unending cycle of wars, unrest and genocide in the region.

# Benefits of Belonging

URI supports the transformation of important ideas into concrete action through:



**CONNECTION** to opportunities for collaboration and collective action



**SUPPORT** for projects and programs



**GLOBAL REACH** that elevates local groups and provides a platform for partnership



**GROWTH** through training, education and visibility



**HOPE** for a transformed, more peaceful world

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## You are URI

Together, we can work towards peace, justice and healing for all. This is the power of we. Contact us to learn how you can be part of our global community.



COVER PHOTO: PARTICIPANTS OF  
"WE REFUSE TO BE ENEMIES:  
A VISION CAMP FOR ISRAEL-PALESTINE"  
GATHER IN A CIRCLE IN THE WEST BANK

PHOTO CREDIT: TAMERA ARCHIVE,  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY LUDWIG SCHRAMM

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