



URI in Latin America and the Caribbean is made up of 56 Cooperation Circles in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The work includes the cultural, social, and religious diversity and the great teachings of indigenous cosmovisions.

THERE IS NO “WAY TO PEACE”, THERE IS ONLY “PEACE”

Mahatma Gandhi

“Climate Action for Peace”

A way to promote peace by respecting and protecting living beings and Mother Earth

Since 1981, the International Day of Peace is celebrated annually worldwide on September 21. The General Assembly of the United Nations dedicated this day to strengthening the ideals of peace among all nations and all peoples and among the members of each.

The United Nations call on all human beings to respect the cessation of hostilities on this day and instead to promote education and public awareness initiatives on topics related to peaceful coexistence.

Each year, URI Latin America and the Caribbean joins in the celebration of the International Day of Peace through actions carried out by our Cooperation Circles with children, youth, women and sages from each of their locations and it is precisely honoring this diversity and their particular efforts that we share with the world this special edition of our Connections Newsletter.

Latin American Musicians CC, Mexico

Coexistence circles with peace



CALMECAC | Av. Valle de México s/n Miravalle Iztapalapa, C.P. 09696

On the occasion of the celebration of the International Peace Day, the Latin American Musicians CC carried out the following activities on September 21st:

- Cleaning of green areas, planting trees;
- Raising ecological awareness through the reuse of inorganic waste;
- Construction of a dove as a symbol of peace, where our visitors could leave positive messages, purposes, ideas and actions for an ecological and peace culture;
- Community lunch without disposables with a tendency to vegan;
- Music in sync with other countries with the intention of symbolically creating a positive energy field through music;

- Objects made with recycled materials that reflect the interpretation of peace in children;
- A circle of dialogue was held with religious leaders to balance the faith;
- A Yoga class was taught;
- A Temazcal was shared.

Around 10 volunteers participated, there were about 50 participants in the 6 hours of the event. For another year we unveiled the interreligious work of URI through the interreligious and intercultural work of the members of the Latin American Musicians CC and created environmental awareness for the care of Mother Earth.



dialogue in the community



FEMAS CC, El Salvador

Cleaning of a ravine and recycling of solid waste



The members of the Femas CC made a day of cleaning of a ravine in the Agua Zarca canton, La Montañita hamlet, San Salvador on Monday, September 16. It was an environmental day of approximately 8 hours of activities in which children, youth and adults from the community

participated, the Mayor Osicala Morazan and municipal government officials, who supported the transportation of the collected rubble. Families were incentivized by a prize that was awarded to the one that recycled more items. It was an inter-religious environmental day that had a positive impact on our rural community because it generated a commitment in all the inhabitants to be more aware of recycling daily in their homes.



United Missions CC, Argentina



Free hugs for peace

On Sunday, September 22 at 3:30 p.m., members of the United Missions CC were giving free hugs at the Rosedal in Palermo, Buenos Aires. The members of the CC were on the street, for about 4 hours with their signs that said “FREE HUG” that also illustrated the URI logo. About 10 volunteers participated in the logistics of the activity. The positive impact on the town was to provide a hug full of good energy to strangers passing by.

Unity, Reconciliation and Healing CC, Argentina

Peace Round

As every year, on the International Day of Peace, the members of the CC of Unity, Reconciliation and Healing organized a meditation: Walking the Labyrinth of Chartres, which seeks for each individual who participates to connect with their creative sensations. Walking along the paths of the Labyrinth of Chartres and the continuous change of direction generate an effect on the different hemispheres of the brain that stimulates creativity, a sense of direction and generate a reflection about self-knowledge. The meditation was held on Saturday, September 21st, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



En el marco de Ronda de Paz promovida por el Consejo de Paz de la República Argentina

**MEDITACIÓN
CAMINANDO EN
EL LABERINTO DE
CHARTRES**

Se solicita puntualidad.

**Sábado 21 de septiembre
a las 10 hrs.**

Av. Cabildo 2720 – Piso 11 - CABA
Entrada gratuita, sin inscripción.

Guardianas:
Ana Inés de Avruj
y Alejandra V. Capriglione

For the Dialogue CC, Venezuela

Actions for peace

As actions for peace this year, on Friday, September 20, members of the CC for the Dialogue held training sessions for peace and environmental care with students from first to sixth grade, at a public school in the El Chorrito neighborhood, in Los Teques, Miranda State. Children were taught how to

make human mandalas and handicrafts with recycled materials. It was a space of brotherhood and education for children to practice recycling in their homes and educate their parents in the care of the planet.



Día Internacional de la paz
Sábado 21 de septiembre
Hora 9:30 am a 12m

VEN A DISFRUTAR Y PARTICIPAR EN ACCIONES POR LA PAZ

9:30 LLEGADA
10:00 MEDITACIÓN DE AMOR INCONDICIONAL
10:45 JUEGOS DE PAZ PARA NIÑOS, MANDALAS TRIDIMENSIONALES Y FABRICACION DE MASCARAS Y PARA TODOS SANACIÓN CON REIKI

Plaza Sucre de Caurimare
Entre la Ave. Principal de Caurimare y Calle A (subida para la clínica Metropolitana)

ASOCAURIMARE

uri UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE
centro BODASHIN OKAM

Entrada libre!
ACCIONES DE
21.09.19 Paz!

Aflaii CC and Melirrewe Mogen CC, Chile



Interfaith Peace Meeting

On Saturday, September 20, in Lumaco, southern Chile, members of Aflaii and Melirrewe Mogen CCs held an interfaith ceremony and meeting led by the community Machi, in which offerings were made to Mother Earth with prayers and songs for peace. One more year on this special date, children and youth were taught about the importance of peace and the care of Mother Earth.

COEMATI CC, Argentina

Environmental Care Day for Grandparents and Youngsters



To celebrate International Peace Day, the youth of the community prepared a lunch with traditional dishes to

honor the local grandparents. This lunch was shared after carrying out environmental care actions, household waste was recycled, and the banks of the creek were cleaned. This activity connects young people with respect and appreciation for their elders, who with love and compassion have given them all the tools to take care of Mother Nature.



Cosmic Community CC, Indigenous Peoples of Argentina CC and QEWÑA CC, Argentina



Peace Manifesto

On September 21, 2019, members of the Cosmic Community, Indigenous Peoples of Argentina and QEWÑA CCs held an interreligious and intercultural meeting where the Peace Manifesto was read for more brothers to participate in the construction of interreligious dialogue and healing of Pachamama. We believe it is important to spread the Peace Manifesto so that in this and every year more will be added to peacebuilding and the salvation of our Pachamama.



Quinaroa CC, Venezuela



Peace Walk

In Lagunillas, Mérida State, the members of Quinaroa CC organized and carried out an interfaith walk for peace that culminated with a snack and offering on the shores of the Urao Lake (sacred place for the indigenous peoples of the region) with all the children, youth and grandparents of the community. The impact of this walk was the reunion of brotherhood among different generations and people of different religions, of the people of Lagunillas around the care of Mother Nature and of peace as a path.

URI Lima CC, Perú

Beach Cleaning Movement

In the city of Lima, Peru on September 21, young members of the URI Lima CC participated in a movement to clean the beaches of Chorrillos. Young people are very committed to climate responsibility, it is an urgent call for all human beings to join in caring for the planet as a palpable peace action.



CC Ecumenical Institute Faith and Politics of Acre. Rio Branco, AC, Brazil

Uncensored debate on the Amazon today, indigenous peoples and synod

To celebrate the International Day of Peace 2019, the Ecumenical Institute Faith and Politics of Acre CC held an excellent debate at the Rio Branco City Hall Auditorium on October 5, 2019 at 8 am.

Presence of important names of the religious community of Acre: Fr. Massimo, Sibá Machado, Carlito Cavalcante, Conceição Cabral, Manuel Caxinauá, João de Lima Cabral, Pr. Cid Mauro, Geber, Hildo and Frank, who together held a high

level discussion with commonalities and convergence, resulting in constructive proposals.



The meeting of the Ecumenical Institute CC opened its debate with the word of Prof. Carlito Cavalcante, current president of the Acre State Climate Change Institute and professor of the Amazon Regional

Development Course at the Federal University of Acre - UFAC. Carlito spoke about the main axes of this delicate and important Amazonian policy today, in a passionate debate involving Sibá Machado, a former senator, as well as Catholic, evangelical, ayahuasca and indigenous leaders. The debate was very positive and respectful, also with the presence of the Advisor of Indigenous Peoples, Prof. Manuel Caxinauá.



URI Campinas CC. Campinas, SP, Brazil

Week for Peace

URI Campinas Cooperation Circle celebrated International Day of Peace 2019 together with the Peace Culture City Council of Campinas, COMPAZ, of which the president is Mostafa Bartar, coordinator of URI Campinas CC. The big event called "Week for Peace" took place September 20-28, 2019.



We started the week with a Walk for Peace, attended by 300 people on September 20, followed by morning and afternoon activities at a regional



Social Welfare Council.

On September 21st, we planted a tree, Moringa da Paz, in Campinas Ecological Park, with songs, puppets, dance and theater, all dedicated to the culture of peace.



On September 24th, we had the Immersion in the Culture of Peace Seminar, with 4 famous speakers at the Red Hall of Campinas City Hall.



On the 25th and 26th of September, there were presentations of the work of the Institute of Youth and Adult

Education (EJA), a program that had already been launched 2 months ago.

On September 27th, there was a general meeting open to the community to hear from the people about their yearnings for peace.

On September 28th, we had the March for Peace and a music concert in the central public square of Campinas.



We had the total participation of approximately 700 people in all activities. It was a dynamic and inspiring event that engaged the people of Campinas in the concept of culture of peace.

URI Brasília CC. Brasília, DF, Brazil

Panel "Indigenous Peoples and the Sacred"

URI Brasília CC is part of a group called Espiritualidade em Ação (Spirituality in Action) composed by several spiritual and cultural organizations. To celebrate the International Day of Peace 2019 they organized a panel in an indigenous village called Kariri-Xocó, which was attended by 25 people.

The world must hear what the indigenous people have to say to preserve the Earth. In this event 4 elder indigenous were invited to speak. For our surprise, 10 young indigenous spoke how they live their spirituality in the society. Most of them are university students. It was very enriching. Unfortunately, we had only a few people from outside the village. A wrong news in the media spread that



Interreligious Movement of Rio de Janeiro - MIR CC

Niterói, RJ, Brazil

9th Walk for Religious Freedom

Hundreds of believers of various religions gathered on Sunday afternoon (8) for the 9th Walk for Religious Freedom held in Icaraí Beach, South Zone of Niterói, RJ.

Set to happen at 3 pm, the concentration began at 1 pm in front of the Rectory of Fluminense Federal University – UFF and a lane was interdicted by the Municipal Guard for safety of the walkers.

According to the president of the Umbanda Spiritualist Union of Brazil and event organizer, Carlos Novo, the event is held to raise awareness and to preach love.

“We have been witnessing many threats around religions that refer to the Afro-Brazilian people, Umbanda and Candomblé mainly. They say we worship the devil and it doesn't exist for us. We worship nature and the elements that are essential for human survival,” he said.

The coordinator and conductor of the Holy Family Musical Band Project (BAMUSF) celebrated the children's participation in the event.

“It is a joy to be here today in this act that marks the integration between religions. And who better than our children, our future, to be here shouting for religious

freedom?” He asked.

Oca Mbya coordinator Cristiane Silva said she attended the event to “strengthen indigenous faith - Brazil's first religion”. The village of Maricá also participated.

“It would be great if everyone could understand that there are indigenous people nearby. Our community is here today because it also needs religious freedom. Together we will raise this flag,” said Cristiane.

Father Luiz Antônio Lopes Ricci of the Archdiocese of Niterói said that for the Catholic Church religious freedom is sacred.

“Everyone has the right to make their own choice. We are here to reinforce this teaching of the church, also of our Pope, and to denounce any form of discrimination, because it cannot come from God. What does not unite separates and what separates is diabolical. What comes from God is love,” he concluded.



Interreligious Movement of Rio de Janeiro - MIR CC

3rd Walk for Religious Diversity of the West Zone of Rio de Janeiro City

On August 24, Saturday, religious from various segments and people who do not profess any form of faith, gathered in the walk mobilized by the MIRZO - Inter-religious Movement of the West Zone, which gathers various collectives.



In the act the speeches, performances and songs were of request of love, understanding, faith and respect. Around 500 people attended the event.

Seeking an effective outcome in the fight against religious intolerance, a manifesto was issued that was signed by the participants and continues to collect signatures to be sent to the constituted powers.

URI Brasilia CC. Brasília, DF, Brazil

Interview with Ivo Poletto, climate change specialist

Members of URI Brasília CC interviewed the philosopher and social scientist Ivo Poletto, a Brazilian climate change expert and authority who currently works in Brasilia as an educational consultant at the Climate Change and Social Justice Forum. He comes from an important trajectory: first Executive Secretary of the Pastoral Commission of the Land (1975-1992); Caritas/Brazil advisor (1993-2002) and member of the Social Mobilization Team of the Zero Hunger Program of the Federal Government (2003-2004).

We quote textually some of his enlightening answers:

“... If practices of uncontrolled consumption of fossil energy sources are not replaced by effectively renewable sources such as the sun, wind and biomass; if extensive monoculture-based farming systems, rampant use of pesticides and transgenic artificial seeds that consume 70% of the freshwater are not replaced by proven agroecological and agroforestry systems around the planet, there will be no way to preserve forests, soils will be desertified and living beings will be poisoned... Only the structural transformations of the system that caused and aggravated global warming, climate change, rising poverty; and changes in the consumerist lifestyle can and indeed will be the way to build peaceful relationships between individuals and peoples, and the people with Mother Earth.”

To the question of what religions can do about climate change, he answered:

“According to my understanding, either the religions call people to relate to a God who has lovingly created the environments where they can live freely and therefore encourage them to care for those environments for the sake of all forms of life, or they must be frank and say what kind of God they worship... There are religious practices that promote theological relationships and practices of love towards the people and all beings that make up Mother Earth. Native peoples, with a long history, practice what they call Good Living: relations of community cooperation between people and harmonious relations with the Earth. And there are religions, like Christianity, that are returning to the messages and practices of their founder, Jesus of Nazareth... that is, to be aware that everything was created by God, including humans and the Earth as a gesture of love; therefore, the mission of humanity is to take care, with creative love, of the people and of Mother Earth as a sacred space and source of life... It is desirable that all religions, with their own characteristics, contribute to the true path of peace.”



“MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH”

Latin American Musicians Cooperation Circle. São José dos Campos, SP, Brazil

10th Regional Seminar for the Promotion of Health and Culture of Peace

In 2019, the GVE XXVII/Live Peace Center held its tenth seminar, a shared journey challenging itself to create possibilities for change in society. In this edition, the theme “Integrity of the human being: a path to a culture of peace” intended to encourage participants to reflect on the integrity of being, from an inside-out movement on our human constitution and how we meet our needs in our daily practices, our self-care and the care offered in the most diverse sectors of society.

Moreno Overá, coordinator of the Latin American Musicians Cooperation Circle gave a workshop on the theme COUNTRY GUITAR: POPULAR ART IN THE DIFFUSION OF CULTURE OF PEACE. Moreno is a musician from Campinas, country guitar player, performer and composer, currently living in São Luiz do Paraitinga, SP, Brazil. With his country guitar he shares his personal, spiritual and social experience, showing the importance of popular art in spreading the culture of peace and revival of human values through music, poetry, folk and mythological tales of Brazil and the world.



Latin American Musicians Cooperation Circle. São Luiz do Paraitinga, SP, Brazil

Soiree for Peace

Our Soiree for Peace has been going on for 3 years. This edition was held on September 23 and was attended by local artists and educators, as well as the common public.

Storytelling, songs and reading of texts were made, all with the theme of peace and human values. A tribute was paid to Aghata, a girl murdered by police in Rio de Janeiro.

The event was held at the Nelsinho Rodrigues Cultural Center, a public space provided by the City Hall of São Luiz do Paraitinga.



Union of Spiritualist, Philosophical, Scientific and Religious Societies – UNISOES CC. Salvador, BA, Brazil



Musical Concert “The Flight of Peace”

The event was held by the Roerich Peace and Culture Institute of Brazil, a member of CC UNISOES, an organization dedicated to peacebuilding and culture strengthening.

The International Day of Peace - September 21, 2019, was celebrated with the show The Flight of Peace, at 7:30 pm, with the purpose of inspiring and sensitizing people to take a more sensitive look at nature, forests, rivers, oceans, animals and themselves. For this we brought in this work ancestral, indigenous songs, Sanskrit mantras,

unprecedented compositions in Portuguese inspired by the same theme. The show was conducted by the musicians:

Radha Vitoria - Singer, songwriter, transpersonal therapist and instructor of mantra yoga. Her studies of lyric singing began at the Conservatory of Music of Belém - PA. Mantra studies began 30 years ago when she joined the Gaudiya Matta Vaisnava School of Philosophical Sciences (India).

Vrnda Macedo - Singer, environmentalist musician, Mantra Yoguine. Her studies of folk singing and music began at the Federal University of Bahia - UFBA, having as instructor the lyric singer Andreia Daltro. Contact with Indian mantras and instruments came shortly after joining the yoga mantra school.

The event was held at the headquarters of CEEAS and the Roerich Brazil Institute and called people to reflect on the importance of their role in building peace, strengthening culture and connecting with the Beauty of Life.

Interfaith Group of São Paulo CC and Fé Menina CC. São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Online Meditation for the International Day of Peace

On September 21, 2019 at 06 am there was a Meditation for the International Day of Peace on the Internet, promoted by Interreligious Cooperation in São Paulo - initiative of URI São Paulo CC and Fé Menina CC.

For 30 minutes, with the contributions of those present, it was possible to perceive the living presence of Peace in a meditation that, honoring the International Day of Peace created by the UN in 1981, visualized "The Planet is Sacred and Wants Peace!"

Cooperation in the active intention of the positive transformation of planetary healing in harmony with the Environment has opened International Day of Peace with a burning brilliance of peace in the hearts that generously work for the benefit of all created beings!



Interfaith Group of São Paulo CC and Fé Menina CC. São Paulo, SP, Brazil



International Day of Peace celebrated at Ibirapuera

Ibirapuera Park hosted an event that links the practice of meditation with various peace manifestations to commemorate International Day of Peace. The initiative united the Open University for the Environment and Culture of Peace (UMAPAZ), responsible for environmental education at the Green and Environment Secretariat (SVMA), Brahma Kumaris, members of URI São Paulo CC and Fé Menina CC, and the

International University of Peace (UNIPAZ).

The event, guided by a message of peace and meditation, took place on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 10am, on the lawn behind the Ibirapuera Auditorium, accessed by gate 3 of Ibirapuera Park.

Open to the public, the program began with a message from several representatives of peace-promoting organizations. Then there was a meditation for all interested. The closing took place at 12pm.

This public action honored the International Day of Peace, established in 1981 by a UN resolution. Since then, entities have celebrated the date to remind that people should not only "think" about peace, but seek some practice that aims to achieve it, individually and collectively.



"MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH"