


URI Pakistan organized Youth program with the title of “Peacebuilding and Harmony: Through Interfaith Dialogue” on 23rd June, 2019 at E-Library Hall Sport Complex Faisalabad. In this youth program, 45 youth members participated from different universities and colleges. They came different religions: Christian, Muslim and Sikh. URI Pakistan organized this youth program with the collaboration of Star organization, WAKE Cooperation Circle and COPE Pakistan Cooperation Circle. After interfaith prayers, Mr. Taswar Younis Gill welcomed all participants, including URI regional staff Mr. Asher Nazir, Executive Secretary, and Sr. Sabina Rifat, Coordinator of URI Women Wing Pakistan.

Mr. Taswar Younis invited Mr. Asher Nazir to introduce URI Pakistan. Mr. Asher Nazir thanked all participants that they came on time and expressed gratitude that the hall was full with youth. He said that first we should know about another, so introduction of all participants is very important. After introduction, through a media presentation, he shared the vision, mission and goal of URI - when, why, how, with, and where URI is working. In 1993, the United Nations invited Bishop Swing to host a large interfaith service for their 50th anniversary. He asked himself, “If the nations of the world are working together for peace through the UN, then where are the world’s religions?”



Interfaith Youth Program

Peacebuilding and Harmony

Through Interfaith Dialogue

Venue: **E-libray Faisalabad**

Dated: **23, June, 2019**

Organized by: **URI Pakistan**

“Since then, thousands of people from different cultures and perspectives have shared their visions and worked together to create URI: The United Religions Initiative.

What emerged was an inclusive URI Charter that provides a unique, grassroots-based structure and set of principles for action on behalf of the common good connecting people across religions and cultures in the service of peace and justice. With the signing of the Charter, the global URI organization was born on June 26, 2000. Past and present, URI is co-created by resourceful staff, committed trustees, Regional Coordinators and staff, passionate cooperation circle coordinators and volunteers, generous donors and a growing global network of visionaries and community organizer. He said that globally URI working with 1013 interfaith cooperation circles in 108 countries and together we are promoting Peace and Interfaith harmony among different religions.

Mr. Asher Nazir invited Sr. Sabina Rifat to talk on ***URI Preamble, Purpose and Principles***. He said that URI's Preamble, Purpose and Principles are the foundation tenets of our Charter and our global network. Sr. Sabina Rifat read the Preamble: "We, people of diverse religions, spiritual expression 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." Principles of URI in Urdu translation participants read one by one for more clarity of URI working among different religions.

Sr. Sabina Rifat was the facilitator and she talked with interfaith youth on this topic: Peacebuilding and Harmony through Interfaith Dialogue. She divided all participants in five groups and gave questions for sharing in groups. After this exercise, the groups came back with a detailed presentation that showed, as interfaith youth, how they can promote peace and harmony in our home, university, college and society.

1. Understanding what is peace
2. Why is important to acknowledge and respect differences in culture, faiths, values, etc.
3. What is my responsibility in making sure that diversity is respected in my home university and community.
4. What can I do to improve justice and peace in my location
5. What can I do to choose peace in violent situations





Together, interfaith youth are getting skills and knowledge about peace and interfaith harmony through exercise by listing and sharing experiences with another.





It is important for remember that no human life is outside of God's care.

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. The objective of this training was to develop youth's awareness of diverse cultures and in so doing promote the development of positive attitudes in all youths towards our ethnic diversity as one people. By using diversity as the lens through which we view this topic, we will provide a mirror in which youth can see themselves as well as a window through which youth can more clearly see their sisters and brothers, and their role in promoting peace in this pluralistic society.

In the last of the program, Mr. Taswar Director of Star Foundation Faisalabad shared in his views: "I am very thankful to URI Pakistan that today many young girls and boys are participated in this training and mostly they are students from different universities." He said, "I appreciated to Sr. Sabina Rifat and Mr. Asher Nazir that today they are with us and shared that as youth how we can promote peace and interfaith harmony in our society. With it I am

In their presentations they shared:

Peace is not the absence of war; it is health, the environment, a gift of relationship, peace is greetings as well as peace is beauty. It is a state of well being with oneself, other and nature. For peace to prevail, we need to think of our relationship with our own selves: others and nature: the beauty of the land, the sharing of resources, how we welcome strangers, treat our neighbors.

The last of God's creation was man and women in His own image. Each person on earth is precious in God's sight. All of us are descendant of the same parents, Adam and Eve. This includes people whom we dislike the most. It includes our enemies.



appreciate to E-library staff because they are participating in this program to know that how we can promote peace in Pakistan.”

Sr. Sabina Rifat said, “I am much impressed with the participation and knowledge of youth about peace and interfaith harmony and they shared impressive presentations. Through love with other and accept with respect other we can play a positive role to promote peace and interfaith harmony. We can make this world heaven if we love and care other as God love you and care you.”

Mr. Asher Nazir shared that URI Pakistan is creating awareness in youth about diverse cultures and religions. The call to be peacemaker is far bigger than resolving arguments, being kind, cooperating and compromising. This call also includes feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, taking care of the sick, visiting the prisoner and accepting others. The call of peace is a call to act, to respond to needs we see around us, to needs we know are near and those which are far away from us. Usually, when one thinks of peace, one thinks of the relationship between human, whether individuals, groups or nations. But in the last several decades, thoughtful people around the world have made a deliberate attempt to relate peacemaking and human relationship with the natural environment - air, water, land, plants and animals. He congratulated Sr. Sabina Rifat and Mr. Taswar Younis Gill for organizing this successful youth training in Faisalabad and appreciated the wonderful participation of interfaith youth Sikh, Muslim and Christian from different universities and colleges. He shared the latest newsletter of URI Pakistan UMANG and gave some copies to participants for more information.





Report prepared by:

Asher Nazir
Executive Secretary
URI Pakistan