

# *Interfaith Link*



**Special Edition**

# Welcome



## Editorial

Greetings,

It is with immense pleasure and gratitude that I greet you all in the year 2020, when URI is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year. We have come a longway. Today we are the largest zone in the world with 119 CCS under South India - Sri Lanka zone. It would be great to look back to our past at this special 'juncture'. I am sure we will be able to create a big impact in this part of Asia as we march into our third decade.

I thank profusely, all my fellow travelers for all what you have given to me and our movement all these years. Our thanks are due to our founder and all the teams at SFO who have been guiding us always.

May the Almighty bless us,

Dr Abraham Karickam



## Milestones



The journey of URI in South India Sri Lanka Region started with Chavara Cultural Center CC, and Cosmic Community Center CC.

Following the success stories of these CC's our region is blessed with many sincere and dedicated CC's working for world peace & became **the largest region in the world with 119 CC's.**



## Our Major Activities of South India Region

1. Regular youth conferences every year for school and college students
2. Workshops on Peace Building and Inter-religious harmony
3. Peace pilgrimages to different religious centres
4. Peace procession on UN International Day of Peace
5. Save the River Campaigns and planting of bamboos on riversides
6. Holy Books Study conferences
7. Flood Relief and Disaster Management activities.
8. Seminars on career guidance and UN related activities in schools and colleges
9. "One Billion Youth for Peace Campaign"
10. Santhvanam project for cancer patients and other people suffering from diseases
11. Awareness on Nuclear Dangers
12. Publication of Books
13. Dialogue among Religions for Peace
14. Disaster Preparedness classes and workshops
15. Water conservation and planting of trees
16. International Student's Summit of Religions.
17. Travelling Peace Academy projects.



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## International Holy Books Conferences

Inspired by the search for establishing interfaith harmony in line with the principle of United Religions Initiative, Cosmic Community Centre commenced the conference in the inter-textuality series in the year 2005; in collaboration with Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Centre for Dialogue, Kottarakara. Since then till 2019, eight such inter-faith conferences have been held in different countries within Asia. In these conferences several scholars from different parts of the world met together and presented their papers. Normally these papers are received prior to the conference for consolidation and to get it printed in a book form. The book containing the papers used to be released during the conference and made available to the participants. These books are kept in libraries and widely used by students and researchers for references.

A group of committed stalwarts from around the world assemble once in two years and keep the torch burning. Participants bear their own means of travel to the venue.

### *Milestones*

Sl.	Theme	Venue	Year
1.	Inter-textuality of the Holy Books	Mar Thoma Jubilee Mandiram, Kottarakara, Kerala, India	2005
2.	One Word, Many Versions-A Re-reading of the Holy Books	Mar Thoma Jubilee Mandiram, Kottarakara, Kerala, India	2007
3.	Holy Books and Violence	Sathigiri, Alwaye Kerala, India	2009
4.	Holy Books and People of Differing Faiths	KIPS, Kottarakara, Kerala, India	2011
5.	Holy Books & Life after Life	KIPS, Kottarakara, Kerala, India	2013
6.	Holy Books & Eco Spirituality	Sarvodaya Institute, Sri Lanka	2015
7.	Holy Books & Creations Stories	Students Christian Centre, Bangkok, Thailand	2017
8.	Holy Books & World Literature	Hotel Ancasa, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	2019



# 08 International Holy Books Conferences



2005  
2019



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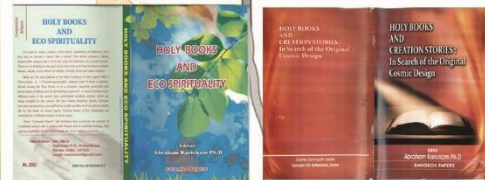
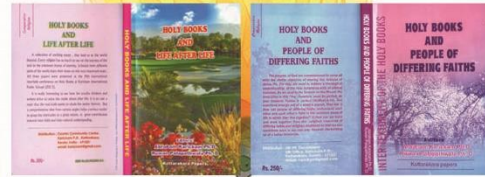
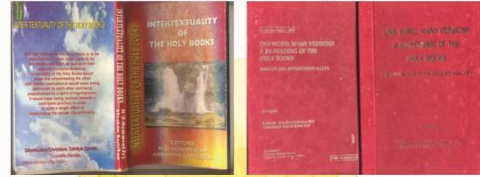
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# One Billion Youth for PEACE

## About One Billion Youth For Peace Campaign

It was a coincidence that on 24th day of August, 2019, during the URI Youth Assembly at Karickam International Public school, a humble beginning of a process; the process of a beautiful transformation through, but the start of a long march, which has immense implications in saving humanity from the verge of total annihilation is initiated. By now we received encouraging note to take the campaign to reach as many educational institutions of youths.



**1** *Billion*  
YOUTH FOR PEACE

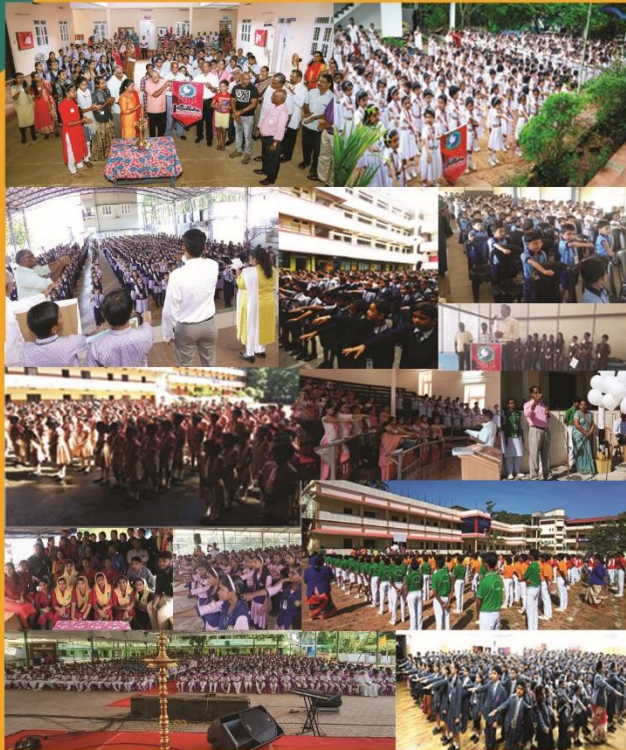
## *Preamble*

We did not create this world; we inherited this beautiful formation, which is a blessing beyond description. It is a pity that the human beings could not fully realise the purpose of the cosmic order; we were competing to forge a hell out of a heaven. We have to reverse this erroneous process and straighten our paths to progress. If we don't do it now, it will be too late to lament; we may not get a moment to repent, when the rockets fly and fill the space with fire.

With immense faith in the young ones, we rise up to regain sanity. We will have one billion voices together, appealing to the conscience of the world and the masters on the driving seat on the fragments of the given earth. We aspire to leave a glorious globe for our children and grand-children to thrive. Let us be peace ambassadors all over the world, saying no to war and terror. We will not rest until we win. This victory will not be for a fortunate few, but for all the ones who are fortunate to be born on this planet, our planet.



# Peace Pledge in Schools Colleges



The First International Summit of Religions on Climate Justice was organized by United Religions Initiative, South India Region with resource partnership of John Paul II Centre for Interreligious Dialogue, Rome. The summit was hosted by St. John's School, Anchal and Karickam International Public School (KIPS), Kottarakara during 9-12 January 2020 in Kerala, India. Miss Kehkashan Basu, (Founder President of Green Hope Foundation & recipient of International Children's Peace Prize), from Canada was among the youth leaders, who participated in the summit.



# Awards & Recognitions

We honour several stalwarts in the area of Peace Building every year, in connection with UN Interfaith Harmony Week. URI Asia Peace Award was given to Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Marthoma Valiya Metropolitan and Dr. A.T. Aria Ratna.





# Traveling Peace Academy



## Training on Peace Building & Conflict Transformation



2005



2006



2010



2010



2011



2012



2016



# Kerala Flood Response

When Kerala was devastated by floods in 2018 and 2019, we were in the forefront of relief activities. Several projects were undertaken such as :

1. Lively hood supplies
2. Trauma counseling
3. Medical Camps
4. Supply of Water purifiers
5. Distribution of Sewing machines
6. Distribution of Medicines and Utensil



## MORAL IMAGINATION PEACE BUILDING PROGRAMME

It was in 2006 that the URI initiated the unique pilot project called “The Moral Imagination Training Program”. The goal was to train a good number of master trainers in peace building. Acclaimed peace practitioners Prof. Dr. John Paul Lederach and Prof. Dr. Herm Weaver were extended their services. Libby Hoffman of Catalysts for Peace offered funding. Teams consisting of three members from countries like the Philippines, India, Ethiopia and Uganda were appointed in addition to an Organisational Learning Team ( OLT ) consisting of Rev. Dr. Charles Gibbs, Sally Mahe, Barabara Hartford, Marites Africa and Dr. Abraham Karickam.

It was a two year long process of leaning based on action and reflection. Trainings were conducted in United States ( twice ), India, the Philippines, Ethiopia and Uganda with a gap of three months. Filed trips of two members were also arranged to different countries to study conflict situations in detail, which were reported to the larger group. On the whole, it was an excellent training series which led to the formation of the Travelling Peace Academy ( TPA ), which later trained around 400 peace builders in different countries.

The Indian team members were Dr. J. Pra-meela Devi, Dr. K. Jacob and Dr. George Mathew.





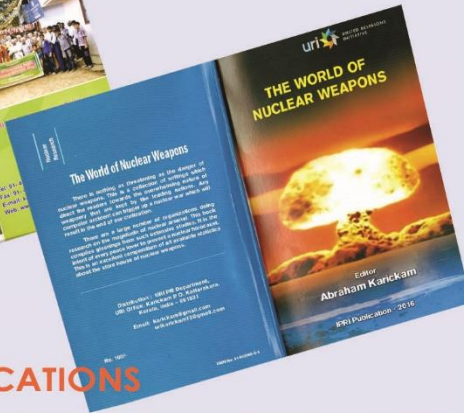
# International Day of Peace



## Youth Camps

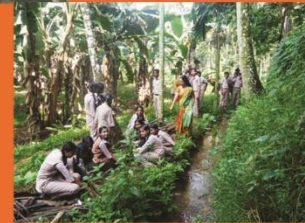


## INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE



IPRI- PUBLICATIONS

## River Rights Campaign



Report of the India National Assembly



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uri  Zonal Assemblies

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# GSO Team Visit

## CC Visit with Global Visionaries Team



## CC Activities

St.Mary's  
Public  
School CC



AKM VHSS CC

KIPS CC





*Zonal Assembly Hyderabad*



*Editorial Board*



Dr Abraham Karickam



Dr Mohan Lal



Dr Devi Raj



Mr Rasika Geethanga



Mr Ravi Kandage



Mr Naja Yahiya



Mr Karunasena



Ms Manuri