Join the Flow
URI’s journey flows with intrepid spirit and life-giving purpose. For more than 20 years, people everywhere have embarked on this journey to connect and learn from one another, reduce violence and suffering, create stronger communities, and cultivate a healthier planet.

Every inspiring story and relationship propels URI to deepen its journey to meet the turmoil and possibilities of the 21st century. Ongoing violence and suffering are met with courage and resolve.

Fear and confusion are met with cooperation, creativity, and care.

In this year’s annual report, we journey through stories from Brazil to Jordan. Stories that show the care of preserving the Indigenous traditions in Latin America, the resilience of the people of Rwanda, and the healing of the Earth in India.

The journey is deep, challenging, and exciting. Join us as we navigate together peace, justice, and healing.
1,163 Cooperation Circles in 111 Countries

A URI Cooperation Circle (or CC) is a self-organizing group of at least seven members who follow three or more faith traditions — including Indigenous, atheists, agnostics, and humanists.

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

Our purpose is...

- To promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation
- To end religiously motivated violence
- To create cultures of peace, justice, and healing for the Earth and all living beings
Our Approach

URI Cooperation Circles combine interreligious dialogue with community-based action to prevent violence and ecocide, and to promote cultures of peace, justice, and healing for the Earth and all living beings.

Regional interfaith partners, allies, trustees, and staff help URI amplify its reach and impact worldwide. Peace is not a solo sport, no one succeeds alone.

This three-part, purpose-driven approach is at the heart of URI’s success.
ACTION

Connect People via Interfaith Cooperation and Community-Building

Train Communities in a Health-Based Approach to Violence Prevention

Work with Young Changemakers to Heal the Planet

IMPACT

Increased Community Connection and Resilience

Decreased Violence with a focus on Women, Children, and Indigenous Minorities

Increased Preservation of Sacred Sites and Natural Heritage
To promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation

Cosmovision: Ancestral Legacy

Indigenous participation and leadership are essential components of URI’s history. In the last year, URI members and leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean region published a book encapsulating the wisdom of Indigenous Cosmovision.

The project was started in June 2020 by Sofía Painiqueo, a former URI Global Trustee and Indigenous woman from the Mapuche People in Chile, and Raúl Mamani, a former URI Trustee and Indigenous man from the Kolla community, in Jujuy, Argentina.

Sofía and Raul hosted a series of ten recorded Zoom meetings focused on different aspects of Cosmovision. Each call was led by a different Indigenous member of the region and connected the community around conversations of hope in times of fear and uncertainty.

The richness of these conversations sparked in URI Regional Coordinator, Enoé Texier, the idea to transcribe and transform them into a book so that the wisdom and words could be spread throughout the world. Read the full story and access a virtual copy of the book online.

“We are both working together with URI, and URI is a network giving us support in educating the students in the slums and the Dalit children.”

Deepak Kumar, Smiles4Millions Foundation CC
Manoj Ram, Peace4Dalits CC

Read the full story online
Interfaith and Intercultural Understanding

For over 20 years, URI has promoted enduring, daily interfaith cooperation by fostering respectful dialogue and understanding between people of all beliefs.

As an example, in Jordan, URI Middle East and North Africa’s regional staff work side by side with Desert Bloom CC to develop youth cultural exchanges and dialogues tailor-made to meet local issues. These programs aim to promote intercultural understanding, create trustworthy relationships, and increase connections.

One program encouraged young adult participants to share the struggles they experienced as religious minorities in their communities. This session aimed for these upcoming leaders to take greater control of their own lives and to actively engage in confronting economic, political, social, and environmental challenges to better serve their community.

Desert Bloom is one of 580 Cooperation Circles that inspire future global leaders to work together to make a difference. Read the full story online.
 URI and Violence Prevention

Religiously motivated violence affects millions of people worldwide and includes violence perpetrated explicitly in the name of religion, as well as violence done by non-religious actors and a government against a religious minority or historically marginalized group. Ending such violence has been a primary purpose of URI since its inception in 2000.

Today, hostilities related to religion are spreading faster than any other type of violence. Most violent conflict is not caused by religious institutions or an individual’s spiritual practices but rather arises amidst struggles about power, competition for territory and resources, and revenge.

Over the past twenty years, the science of violence has advanced considerably. This offers a key opportunity for URI and its partners to more effectively prevent or reduce violence, with measurable results, worldwide.

In the coming three years, URI will build the capacity and skills of CCs engaged in peacebuilding and conflict transformation. The first such program will be rolled out in Nigeria in the Fall 2023. Read more in January online.

“The visit to the Genocide Memorial in Kigali conveyed a powerful lesson about the devastating consequences of hate and division, the importance of education, and the power of resilience. It evoked feelings from heartbreak to empathy for the victims and survivors, and inspired a commitment to promote peace, justice, and healing.”

Lejla Hasandedic-Dapo, Individual Membership Coordinator
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Read Individual Members’ Stories about Genocide online
A Journey of Hope and Resilience

Aligned with URI’s focus on ending religiously motivated violence, the 2023 URI Global Council and Staff gathering was held in Rwanda. This was an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and build relationships, as well as learn firsthand about genocide.

The visit to the Rwanda Genocide Museum united the URI team with the people of Rwanda. The visit and subsequent training session taught the power of the Rwandan “no revenge”, truth-telling, restorative justice, and healing approach that makes resilience, forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace possible.

The team had the honor to hear Bishop John Rucyahana from the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission. He was directly involved in the reconciliation process in Rwanda after the genocide. His words of wisdom crescendoed with “God is not joking with us,” a stirring call to action, in reference to the current state of affairs in the world. View the full video online.

“The resilience of the people of Rwanda gives us hope and endurance to do what we need for peace to prevail on earth.”

— Amb. Mussie Hailu, Regional Director for Africa

To learn more, scan this code.
To create cultures of peace, justice, and healing for the Earth and all living beings

Guiding Healing and Restoring Mother Earth

The dynamic work of creating cultures of peace, justice, and healing only intensifies as we feel the effects of the climate crisis, locally and globally. We believe that even in the most disruptive and emotionally challenging times, safe, innovative, and peace-filled responses are possible. Climate action and Earth restoration efforts include:

Regionally designed training to encourage community-based resilience and ecosystems restoration

Strategy-sharing collaborations with NGO partners, Indigenous communities and faith coalitions to expand global awareness and action

Ceremonial gatherings and thematic workshops to honor Earth and continue to learn about meaningful ways to care for the land, water, one another and all species

Monthly “Gathering for Earth” calls and newsletter updates provide opportunities for Cooperation Circles to discuss regional concerns and share ideas

Across the URI network, over 375 Cooperation Circles are taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address widespread pollution, and protect biodiversity. Together we can accept the weight of this moment by responding to the unique needs in each of our communities, and honoring our interrelatedness as the source of strength it has always been. A brochure is available online.

“In our region, we had no hospital wing. We came up with an idea to use plastic bottles to build this needed facility out of disposable materials found everywhere in our community.”

Sipho Gondwe, Vice-Chair of Lilongwe CC

Watch the video online
Jal Jamin Jangal Movement

In eastern India, Jharkhand, known for its hills, waterfalls, and holy places, is the largest tribal-dominated state with over 30 tribes. As the city sprawls into the countryside, tribal villages are facing the pain of modern progress. This includes the disruption of the livelihood of local communities and ecosystems.

To answer this urgent call from nature, and fight the threat against Indigenous rights, URI Cooperation Circles from the region have embraced the “Jal Jamin Jangal Movement” (save the Water, Land, and Forest), as their core mantra.

Amongst the CCs are members of Harekrishnapur Tribal Village, a local Indigenous community committed to preserving the environment upon which they rely. They recognize the importance of communicating and working with different stakeholders. They engage local activists and leadership to understand the government’s vision and collaborate with the local authorities on a process to restore and preserve the ecosystem. Read the full story online.
Our Leadership

URI is sincerely grateful to our leaders for their steadfast commitment to furthering our purpose toward peace, justice, and healing.

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Global Efficiency

Key Revenue and Expenses Information for year ended December 31, 2022*

TOTAL REVENUE**
$3,892,638
- 35%
- 42%
- 23%

TOTAL EXPENSES
$3,137,944
- 59%
- 13%
- 7%
- 7%
- 7%
- 7%

Individuals   $1,341,314
Foundations/Corporations   $1,651,324
Special Funds   $900,000
Global Community Programs   $1,605,401
Management & General   $317,590
Global Council   $274,789
Fundraising   $280,856
Education & Outreach   $337,930
Communications   $279,260

* Unaudited. Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.
** URI also received $125,000 as a donor/Board restricted contribution to the endowment, quasi-endowment, and reserves. This amount is not included in the 2022 total revenue.
In 2021, URI launched a three-year partnership with Elite Research to perform an in-depth study on the impact of URI as a network connecting Cooperation Circles (CCs) to each other globally and regionally, and in alignment with URI’s PPPs.

The focus was to find out:

- How connected do CCs experience themselves in relation to the network?
- What distinctive URI priorities and what forms of connection factor into CCs’ experience of engagement in the network?

With the three years almost completed, URI will be sharing widely collected learnings from the study in early January 2024.

Here are some preliminary findings of the survey:

- **91.0%** URI provides opportunities to learn about interfaith work that is meaningful to CC members’ work.

- **90.5%** Belonging to URI has improved the CC members’ and leaders’ ability to understand people of other religious, spiritual, national, traditional, cultural, etc. backgrounds.

- **90.0%** URI’s core values (the PPPs) provide meaningful guidance for the work CC members and leaders do in their community.

*The numbers above represent the percentages of respondents affirming the statements.*
BECOME A COOPERATION CIRCLE

Boost your interfaith organization or group by joining a strong worldwide network finding solutions to issues that affect communities around the world.

JOIN AS AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

Connect globally with people from different beliefs, traditions, and cultures to work toward peace, justice, and healing in the world.

PARTNER WITH URI

Achieve shared goals by bringing together the collective strength of your organization and URI.

TO CONNECT WITH URI, SCAN OR VISIT uri.org/welcome
Deepen Your Journey

Be a catalyst for change and invest in URI efforts around the world.

Every contribution matters. Each member makes a difference.

We are grateful to navigate together peace, justice, and healing.

Invest in URI's Future

- **Multi-Year Giving**
  Pledge your annual contribution for several years.

- **Monthly Giving Circle**
  Commit to ongoing giving and contribute your donation in installments.

- **Legacy Circle Giving**
  Consider including URI in your estate plans and inform URI accordingly.

- **Endowment Support**
  Contact the URI Development Department with an interest in supporting URI in perpetuity.

Enhance URI's Visibility

- **Partnership Bridgebuilder**
  Help URI develop partnerships with like-minded organizations.

- **Social Media Influencer**
  Spread the word about URI to your friends and colleagues through social media.

- **Connection Facilitator**
  Host an event to introduce URI to friends and colleagues and help raise awareness.

- **Media Outreach**
  Boost URI's visibility by connecting it with local and global media.

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