World Interfaith Harmony Week 2018 - Compassionate Listening Workshops

It was a pleasure for the URI Southern African Office to host Senior Certified Facilitator, Susan Partnow, from Seattle, USA, who is the co-founder of Compassionate Listening.org. Susan is a former teacher and speech pathologist, author of *Everyday Speaking for All Occasions* and co-author of *Practicing the Art of Compassionate Listening*, as well as certified mediator and apprentice with Dominick Barter in Restorative Circle practice.

In collaboration with our CCs, we hosted two Compassionate Listening Workshops, one in Cape Town and one in Joburg. The Cape Town workshops were co-hosted by GOAL and Cape Town Interfaith Initiative CC’s. The Joburg workshop was hosted in partnership with United and Share for Peace and Prosperity (USPP) CC, and URI partner, the Turquoise Harmony Institute. This was an opportunity for members of our CCs as well as members our wider faith communities, to learn how to bring the powerful practices of compassionate listening into our daily lives, workplaces and communities.

The workshops were very experiential, giving participants practical tools of cultivating compassion, understanding conflict, and developing the skills to listen and speak from the heart. 22 people attended the workshop in Cape Town, and 34 people attended the JHB workshop.

In honouring World Interfaith Harmony Week, the practice of Compassionate Listening is core to building peace in our communities and between different faith traditions. It was a pleasure to host Susan and we are deeply grateful for her time and skills shared with us. It was also a wonderful experience being able to share with her a taste of our beautiful country.
Photographs from the workshops: