### INTERFAITH PRECONFERENCE

# TAKING ACTION TO OVERCOME HIV STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION

COMPREHENSIVE, COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR ALL

27- 28 JULY 2022 HYBRID EVENT



# Data, Targets & Actions









Stigma and discrimination impede the HIV response at every step, limiting:



Prevention services



**Health services** 



Testing, treatment and adherence

HIV-related stigma and discrimination significantly impact the health, lives and well-being of people living with or at risk of HIV.

Stigma and discrimination increase the risk of HIV acquisition and progression to AIDS, violence, and marginalization, while reducing access to education, employment and justice.

# What is Stigma?









### Stigma & HIV-related Stigma

Dynamic process of devaluation that 'significantly discredits' an individual in the eyes of others

HIV-related stigma is multi-layered. It builds upon the association of HIV and AIDS with already-marginalized behaviours, such as drug use, and others. It reinforces fears of outsiders and otherwise vulnerable groups, such as prisoners and migrants.

### Self-stigma

People living with HIV may internalize the negative responses and reactions of others. It affects the individual and community's sense of pride and worth.

## What is Discrimination?









#### Discrimination & HIV-related Discrimination

When stigma is acted upon, the result is discrimination. Discrimination consists of actions or omissions that are derived from stigma and directed towards those individuals who are stigmatized.

It occurs in *family and community settings* = 'enacted stigma'. This is what individuals do either deliberately or by omission so as to harm others and deny to them services or entitlements. Examples: avoiding everyday contact; verbal harassment; physical violence; verbal discrediting and blaming; gossip; and denial, etc

It occurs in *institutional settings*—in particular, in work- places, health-care services, prisons, educational institutions and social-welfare settings. Such discrimination crystallizes enacted stigma in institutional policies and practices that discriminate against people living with HIV, or indeed in the lack of anti-discriminatory policies or procedures of redress.











**Examples** of this kind of discrimination against people living with HIV include the following.

- Health-care services: reduced standard of care, denial of access to care and treatment, HIV
  testing without consent, breaches of confidentiality including identifying someone as HIVpositive to relatives and outside agencies, negative attitudes and degrading practices by healthcare workers.
- Workplace: denial of employment based on HIV-positive status, compulsory HIV testing, exclusion of HIV-positive individuals from pension schemes or medical benefits.
- Schools: denial of entry to HIV-affected children, or dismissal of teachers.
- **Prisons**: mandatory segregation of HIV-positive individuals, exclusion from collective activities.









A significant number of countries have enacted legislation with a view to restricting the rights of HIV-positive individuals and groups.

- the compulsory screening and testing of groups and individuals;
- the prohibition of people living with HIV from certain occupations and types of employment;
- isolation, detention and compulsory medical examination, treatment of infected persons; and
- limitations on international travel and migration including mandatory HIV testing for those seeking work permits and the deportation of HIV-positive foreigners.
- Discrimination also occurs through omission, such as the absence of, or failure to implement, laws, policies and procedures that offer redress and safeguard the rights of people living with HIV.

## The Data











Stigma index analysis found that HIV-related discrimination caused or contributed to job loss in more than 50% of cases in 7 of 11 countries (UNAIDS data)

In 11 countries with available data up to



40% of people
living with HIV
report being forced to submit to
a medical or health procedure.

21%
of people living with
HIV reported being
denied health care in
the past 12 months
Across countries with
available data

## The Data









Up to

26%

of women living with HIV reported that receiving HIV treatment was conditional on taking contraceptives



## 47 countries

Maintain travel restrictions for people living with HIV

People from key populations face high levels of stigma, discrimination and violence In 25 of 36 countries with recent data,

>50%

of people
15–49 years
hold discriminatory
attitudes toward
people living
with HIV

# LINKING RIGHTS AND HEALTH OUTCOMES











People living with HIV who perceive high levels of HIV-related stigma are

For **adolescents** living with HIV, experiences with discrimination from other students or teachers negatively influence their ability to carry medication and manage a dosing schedule at school.

Where programmes have been put in place to respond to stigma and discrimination, access to services for HIV prevention, testing and treatment has measurably improved

# 2.4 times more likely to delay enrolment in care

until they are very ill

Criminalization of same-sex sexual behavior is correlated with lower rates of HIV testing and higher HIV prevalence





A study in sub-Saharan Africa showed that where the age of consent for HIV testing is 15 or below, HIV testing rates were 74% higher among adolescents compared with other countries (15).

Decriminalization
of drug use and
possession for
personal use are
associated with
significant decreases in HIV
incidence among people who inject
drugs, including through greater
access to harm reduction services,
reductions in violence and arrest
or harassment by law enforcement
agencies

# GLOBAL AIDS STRATEGY 2021 - 2026



Confronting stigma and discrimination is a prerequisite for effective prevention and care, and reaffirm that discrimination on the grounds of one's HIV status is a violation of human rights



# POLITICAL DECLARATION ON HIV AND AIDS: ENDING INEQUALITIES AND GETTING ON TRACK TO END AIDS BY 2030

Seventy-fifth session
Agenda item 10
Implementation of the Declaration of
Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the
political declarations on HIV/AIDS

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Adopts the political declaration
entitled "Political Declaration on
HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities
and Getting on Track to End AIDS
by 2030" annexed to the present
resolution.

74TH PLENARY MEETING 8 JUNE 2021

# GLOBAL AIDS SOCIETAL ENABLER TARGETS 2025











LESS THAN 10% OF LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS REPORT
NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD
KEY POPULATIONS.

LESS THAN 10% OF WOMEN, GIRLS, PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND KEY POPULATIONS EXPERIENCE GENDER-BASED INEQUALITIES AND ALL FORMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

LESS THAN 10% OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV REPORT INTERNALIZED STIGMA OR EXPERIENCE STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTH- CARE AND COMMUNITY SETTINGS

LESS THAN 10%
OF COUNTRIES
HAVE PUNITIVE
LEGAL AND POLICY
ENVIRONMENTS
THAT LEAD TO
THE DENIAL OR
LIMITATION OF
ACCESS TO SERVICES.

LESS THAN 10%
OF PEOPLE LIVING
WITH HIV AND KEY
POPULATIONS
EXPERIENCE
STIGMA AND
DISCRIMINATION.



LESS THAN 10% OF THE GENERAL POPULATION REPORTS DISCRIMINATORY ATTITUDES TOWARD PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV.

# GLOBAL AIDS SOCIETAL ENABLER TARGETS 2025

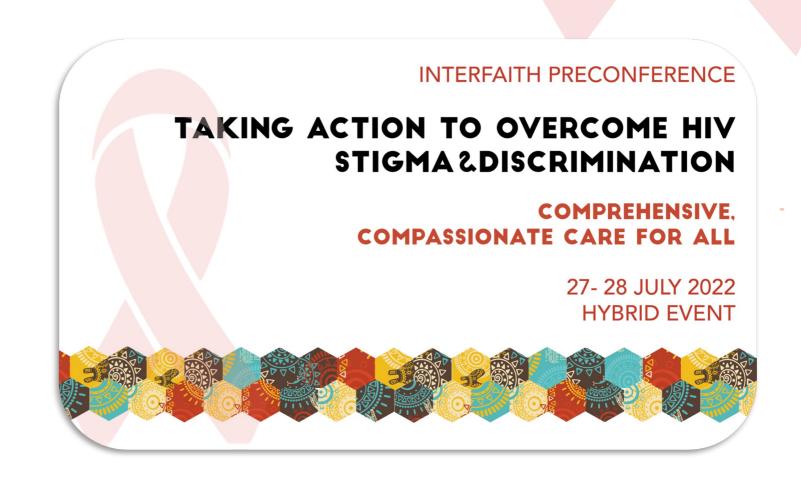








Re-Commit to eliminating HIV-related stigma and discrimination and to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV



# GLOBAL AIDS SOCIETAL ENABLER TARGETS 2025

Religious Leaders and FBOs to support creating an enabling legal environment by reviewing and reforming, as needed, restrictive legal and policy frameworks, including discriminatory laws and practices that create barriers or reinforce stigma and discrimination such as age of consent laws and laws related to HIV non-disclosure, exposure and transmission, those that impose HIV-related travel restrictions and mandatory testing and laws that unfairly target people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, with the aim of ensuring that less than 10 per cent of countries have restrictive legal and policy frameworks that lead to the denial or limitation of access to services by 2025



Read More

**The 2021 Political Declaration** welcomes that over 26 million people living with HIV are on antiretroviral therapy—a number that has more than tripled since 2010—but despite this progress 12 million people living with HIV still do not have access to treatment, especially in Africa, and that these 12 million people are prevented from accessing treatment due to inequalities, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and structural barriers

RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND FBOS

MILLION

CAMPAIGN

Ensuring everyone with HIV a long and healthy life

**ADVOCACY** 

BY

https://www.interfaith-health-platform.org/faith2endaids











by signing Our Promise
to Action and
encourage at least 12
members of my faith
community, network to
sign and support it.



Support the identification of and collaborate with Faith HIV Champions in my country and at global level: The 12 Million

Campaign will involve at least 12 faith leaders per each of the world's countries – to be strong and coordinated voices for the rights and dignity of all.



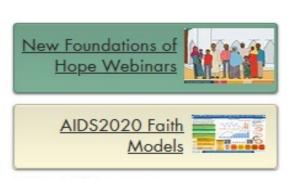
Mobilize action to ensure that the 12 million children, women and men – who are living with HIV and are not yet on optimal lifesaving antiretrovirals - have access to such treatments, remain on treatment, and have their viral load suppressed.

# FAITH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE COMMUNICATION PROTOTYPES

On November 28, 2018, the United States government announced the investment of \$100 million, through PEPFAR, to address key gaps toward achieving HIV epidemic control and ensuring justice for children, including by leveraging the unique capacities and compassion of faith-based organizations and communities.

The Faith and Community Initiative seeks to:

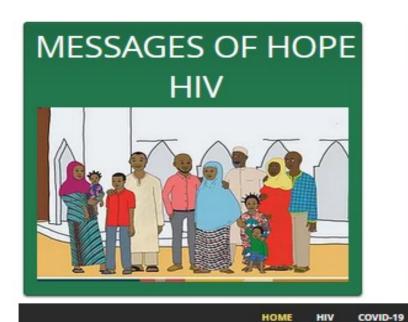
- Engage communities of faith to reach men and children with testing and services, understand the epidemic, and raise community awareness through:
  - · Faith community structures; and
  - Existing and additional FBO partners.
- 2. Strengthen justice for children through:
  - Community leaders (e.g., faith, traditional, school, civic);
  - · Faith & traditional organizations/structures; and
  - Justice sector, and those who work with the Justice sector.





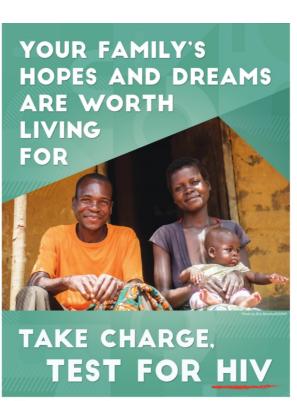


To maintain the gains for HIV prevention and control, global faith leaders also developed Messages of Hope for COVID-19. While these messages were developed with the aim of serving populations affected by HIV/AIDS, they are generic and can be adapted for use in other settings.





ABOUT CONTACT









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#### **Taking Action to Overcome HIV Stigma & Discrimination**

Comprehensive, Compassionate Care for All

Interfaith Pre-Conference to the International AIDS Conference 2022 Hybrid Event

July 27-28, 2022, Montreal, Canada

All times are in EST (-5 UTC)

In presence: Plaza Centre-Ville, 777 Blvd Robert-Bourassa, Montreal

Virtual: Links will be sent prior to the meeting

#### Wednesday 27 July 2022 (8:00-18:00 | EST)

7:30-8:00 | Registration of participants & coffee

8:00-8:25 | Opening

- Opening Prayer
  - o Rev. Canon Gideon Byamugisha
  - Rev. Dr Pauline Njiru, Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator, World Council of Churches – Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy, WCC-EHAIA
- Opening Remarks
  - o Ulysses Burley, UBtheCURE

#### 08:25-9:25 | Opening Ceremony

- Music: North Coast Men Chorus
- Facilitator: Brian Otieno, Alfajiri Network, Kenya
- Mathew M. Kavanagh, Deputy Executive Director, a.i., Policy, Advocacy and Knowledge UNAIDS
- Sandy Thurman, Chief Strategy Officer, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy, PEPFAR
- Keynote: Jeanne White-Ginder, AIDS activist and Ryan White's mom
- Music: North Coast Men Chorus
- Kate Thompson, Head of the Community, Rights and Gender Department, The Global Fund
- Fr. Richard Bauer, George Washington University, Institute for Spirituality and Health, Maryknoll
- Music: Children Kenya

#### 9:30-10:30 | Setting the Scene 1: General overview: Data and Targets

- Facilitator: Ulysses Burley, UBtheCURE
- Vinay Saldanha, Director, UNAIDS WDC: State of the HIV and AIDS global response
- Francesca Merico, UNAIDS PEPFAR Faith Initiative, PEPFAR Faith and Community Initiative: General overview - Data and Targets



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- Countries' overview of the situation and challenges, gaps and interventions:
  - Christine N. Njogu, Programme Officer, Faith Sector, National AIDS Control Council, NACC, Kenya
  - Sandy Thurman, Chief Strategy Officer, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy, PEPFAR, (USA)
- Q&A: <u>Facilitator</u>: Ulysses Burley, <u>UBtheCURE</u>

10:30-11:00 | Break & Networking (for those attending virtually, please stay logged on)

11:00-11:45 | Voices & Visions for a world without stigma: recommendations of affected persons and communities in dialogue with faith leaders

- Facilitator: Rita Rhayem, Health & HIV Advisor, Caritas Internationalis
- Valeria Rachynska, 100% Life, Ukraine
- Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga, Programme Executive, World Council of Churches – Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative and Advocacy, WCC-EHAIA, Bolivia
- Ekow Tachie-Mensah, Youth Ambassador, Ghana
- Table discussion (for those attending virtually, chat rooms will be organized)

#### 11:45-12:30 | Workshop Stream 1

- Interfaith Action to Overcome Stigma and Discrimination, Rev. Christina Sutton Koroma, Congregational Evangelical Mission in Sierra Leone, the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (VIRTUAL)
- You are Precious! Sr. Maria Fernandes, Holy Family School, Seraulim, Goa, India (VIRTUAL)
- To address HIV and AIDS-related stigma in the faith Community, Charles Simakumba, White Ribbon Campaign Namibia, Namibia (VIRTUAL)
- Role of Religion in Trans Rights Movement in Pakistan South Asia (A study of Trans Protection Act 2018), Alisha Sherazi, Women 4 Global Fund (VIRTUAL)

12:30-13:25 | Lunch

13:25-14:30 | High-level Session: FBOs interventions that advance HIV epidemic control by addressing stigma and discrimination

- Video: FCI HIV
- Music: Children
- <u>Facilitators</u>: Susan Hillis, Senior Technical Advisor, Faith and Communities Initiatives, Office of the Global AIDS Ambassador and Health Diplomacy & Brian Otieno, Alfajira Network
- Dr John Nkengasong, Ambassador-at-Large, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR
- Monsignor Robert J. Vitillo, Secretary General, International Catholic Migration Commission, ICMC
- Music: FCI
- Q&A





## GLOBAL AIDS SOCIETAL ENABLER TARGETS 2025

Work together towards the vision of zero stigma and discrimination against people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, by ensuring that less than 10 per cent experience stigma and discrimination by 2025, including by leveraging the potential of Undetectable = Untransmittable

#### Thursday 28 July 2022 (8:30-18:00 | EST)

#### 08:30-8:50

#### **Opening Prayer**

Jama Hanshi, Islamic Relief Worldwide, & Prof Mohammed Karama,
 Islamic Relief Worldwide, INERELA+

#### 08:50-10:30

### Innovations to tackle HIV Stigma & Discrimination: Undetectable = Untransmittable

- Walcome remarks
  - o Jacek Tyszko, Senior Adviser, UNAIDS
  - Harlan Pruden, Indigenous Knowledge Translation Lead at Chee
     Mamuk, and co-founder of the Two-Spirit Dry Lab
- Innovations to tackle HIV Stigma & Discrimination: Undetectable = Untransmittable
  - <u>Facilitator:</u> Manoj Kurian, Coordinator, World Council of Churches – Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, WCC-EAA
  - Long-acting injections to treat and prevent HIV: optimizing treatment results
    - David H. Brown Ripin, Executive Vice President, Infectious Diseases, Chief Science Officer, Clinton health Access Initiative, CHAI
  - Ending Stigma Through Compassionate, Comprehensive Care
    - Echo VanderWal, Managing Executive Director, The Luke Commission, Eswatini
- How optimal HIV paediatric treatment can pave the way to end stigma among children?
  - <u>Facilitator</u>: Stuart Kean, Interfaith Health Platform
  - Chip Lyons, President & CEO, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, EGPAF
  - David Mabirizi, Technical Lead, Pediatric & Adolescent HIV, FASTER/FOCUS | Catholic Relief Services, CRS
- Discussion

#### 10:30-11:00

#### **Break & Networking** (for those attending virtually, please stay logged on)

#### 11:00-11:45

### Innovations to tackle HIV Stigma & Discrimination: Undetectable = Untransmittable & decentralization of care

- The impact of new testing tools, including HIVST, and methodologies in addressing stigma and discrimination: the contribution of the faith sector
  - <u>Facilitator:</u> Julienne Munyaneza, UNAIDS PEPFAR Faith Initiative
  - Rachgel Baggaley, Team Lead for Testing, Prevention and Populations, Global HIV, Hepatitis and STI Programmes, World Health Organization, Geneva
  - Gibstar Makangila, Executive Director, Circle of Hope Zambia
- Discussion

### 11:45-12:30 | Leveraging FBOs to Achieve Epidemic Control Overcoming HIV Stigma and Discrimination

- <u>Facilitator</u>: Tiffiany M. Aholou, CDC Atlanta / Division of Global HIV and Tuberculosis & Susan Hillis, CDC
- Tiffiany M. Aholou, CDC Messages of Hope
- Yvonne Pande, Expanded Church Response: Faith Matters
- Timothy Efuntoye, CDC and Dina Patel, USAID: Congregational Baby Shower Model
- Justus Muhangi, Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau: Ugandan experience with Key Populations
- Discussion

#### 12:30-13:25 | Lunch

### 13:25-14:30 | Impact of Initiatives to tackle stigma and discrimination and potential for engaging with the faith sector

- <u>Facilitator</u>: Nkatha Njeru, Team Lead, Africa Christian Health Association Platform, ACHAP
- Suki Beavers, Director, Equality and Rights for All, UNAIDS: Global Partnership to Eliminate All Forms of HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination
- Pim Looze, PLHIV Stigma Index Officer, The Global Network of People
   Living with HIV (GNP+): The Stigma Index Study and ways in which Faith
   groups and communities could use this tool to strengthen their stigma
   reduction interventions
- Alexandrina Iovita, Technical Adviser Human Rights, Human Rights, Community Rights & Gender Department, The Global Fund: The Breaking Down Barriers Initiative: tackling HIV stigma with faith communities
- Itoro Effiong Ekanem, Chair of the The Pact: "Impact of Iniatives to tackle stigma and discrimination and potential for engaging with the faith sector" – Youths' perspectives
- Discussion

#### 14:30-15:30 | Break & Networking – Stigma & Discrimination Reduction Activities and Games

### 15:30-15:45 | Engaging Interfaith Leaders in HIV: A model for Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. South

- <u>Facilitator</u>: George Kerr III
- Allison Mathews, PhD, Research Fellow in Faith and Health, Executive Director Gilead COMPASS Faith Coordinating Center, School of Divinity, Wake Forest University: Engaging Interfaith Leaders in HIV: A Model for Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. South

### 15:45-17:05 | Monitoring & Evaluation: which M&E frameworks are in place that can be adapted to faith interventions to effectively address stigma and discrimination?

- <u>Facilitator</u>: Ayoko Bahun Wilson, World Council of Churches –
   Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative and Advocacy, WCC EHAIA
- Shobana Ramachandran, Associate Director of Strategic Information & Evaluation, EGPAF



- Prof John Blevins, Associate Research Professor, Hubert Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
- Discussion

#### 17:05-17:15 | Celebration - Video and Cultural Dance - Human Touch, Goa, India

#### 17:15-18:00 | Closing & Next Steps

- <u>Facilitators</u>: Brian Otieno, Alfajira Network & Rev Jane Ng'ang'a, Coordinator, INERELA+ Kenya
- Matthew M. Kavanagh, Deputy Executive Director, a.i., Policy, Advocacy and Knowledge, UNAIDS
- Sandy Thurman, Chief Strategy Officer, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy, PEPFAR
- Luvo Sobuza, GenEndIt Youth Ambassadors, South Africa
- Fr Richard Bauer, George Washington University, Institute for Spirituality and Health, Maryknoll
- Music: North Coast Men Chorus

# Thank You