

Controversies in faith and health care

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Stigma and Sexuality

- 1) Faith communities actively seeking to reduce stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV- (INERELA+, Channels of Hope, Tearfund SAVE-Toolkit)
- 2) Prominent faith leaders strongly condemn stigma, discrimination and violence towards people who are LGBT
- 3) Differences in viewpoints on homosexuality but recognition that LGBT is expression of identity – not a life style choice

Harm Reduction

- 1) Differences in viewpoints on Harm Reduction-
There is much support for harm reduction approaches within sacred texts**
- 2) Many faith leaders support community programmes providing opiate substitution, needle exchange, male circumcision, PEP, condoms-**
- 3) Different Faith Communities work together to speak out against criminalisation and provide healthcare to vulnerable (Indian Interfaith Coalition on AIDS)**

Violence Against Women (VAW)

- 1) Many sacred writings reject VAW but some (e.g. *idrabahunna* in Quran and *karma* in Hinduism) are used by a few teachers
- 2) Good examples of faith leaders (e.g. Imams against Domestic Abuse) speak out strongly against VAW
- 3) Increasingly strong coalitions of different faith leaders work together (e.g. We will speak out – WWSO)

Gender

- 1) **Some differences in viewpoint**
- 2) **Faith leaders speak out on failure of faith groups to champion gender justice**
- 3) **Faith communities actively providing healthcare for women**

Recommendations:-

- 1. Faith leaders to become more “Health Active”.**
- 2. Health care leaders to become more “Faith Active”.**
- 3. Work together on specific “Healthcare Issues for collaborative action”.**
- 4. Integrate Faith into national health care programmes more imaginatively**
- 5. Research – policies, programming and impact.**