

# **HIV INTERFAITH CONFERENCE**

## ***Resilience & Renewal***

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**  
**22, 23, 24 September 2020**  
**VIRTUAL PLATFORM**

The HIV Interfaith Conference, “*Resilience & Renewal: faith in the HIV response*”, will take place virtually on 22-23-24 September 2020.

*Resilience & Renewal* will provide a space for sharing, capacity building and advocacy among people of faith involved in the HIV and AIDS response. It will be an opportunity to celebrate and get inspired by the many resilient people engaged in the HIV response. This will be an opportunity for faith leaders, faith-based organizations, and communities of faith to recommit to a holistic, comprehensive response to HIV that acknowledges the innate dignity of every human person.

*Resilience and Renewal* will create a space for dialogue and an opportunity to identify joint actions to address some of the challenges and emerging issues to the achievements of the 2020 and 2030 HIV-related targets.

The event is organized by several faith groups’ representatives from around the world and people living with HIV through the support of the UNAIDS-PEPFAR Faith Initiative.

### **Objectives**

The Interfaith Conference is guided by six outcome objectives:

1. Increase the knowledge base, determination to take action, and positive attitudes of participants in relation to advocacy, challenging topics, and research/evidence
2. Celebrate and get inspired by committed, passionate people engaged in the HIV response
3. Highlight and describe the distinctive roles of faith leaders, faith-based organizations, and faith communities in a multi-sectoral, integrated, and comprehensive response to HIV in local, national, and global contexts.
4. Build collaboration between faith groups and other sectors
5. Launch an Interfaith Platform for learning, capacity building, networking, action, and advocacy as a follow-up to this Interfaith Conference
6. Ensure that the experiences and perspectives of young people, those living with HIV, and members of marginalized communities disproportionately impacted by HIV inform the content and action steps that emerge from this conference

## Day 1: Tuesday, 22 September 2020

### OPENING SESSION (60min)

6:30 - 7:30 am San Francisco / 9:30 - 10:30 New York / 3:30 - 4:30 pm Geneva / 4:30 – 5:30 pm Nairobi / 7 – 8 pm Mumbai / 8:30 – 9:30 pm Bangkok

#### Music & Dance:

- Children & Youth from Kenya (INERELA+)

**Facilitator:** Rev Aquarius Gilmer

#### Prayers on Resilience:

- **Archbishop Evstratiy Zorya**, Deputy Head of the Office in the Department of External Church Relations, Orthodox Church, Ukraine
- **Sheikh Yusuf Nasur Abuhamza**, Kenya
- **Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky**, PhD, Appleman Professor of Midrash and Interreligious Studies; Director, Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue, Jewish Theological Seminary, U.S.

#### Welcome remarks:

- **Winnie Byanyima**, Executive Director, UNAIDS
- **Amb. Deborah Birx**, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator & U.S Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, PEPFAR
- **Jesse Milan Jr**, President and CEO, AIDS United
- **Nsofwa Petronella Sampa**, Clinical Psychosocial Counsellor – young people living with HIV and disabilities, Positive Movement, Zambia

#### Music:

- Children & Youth from Kenya (INERELA+)

#### Keynote Speech:

- **The Most Reverend Dr Thabo Makgoba**, Archbishop of Cape Town, Anglican Church of Southern Africa, South Africa: *Resilience & Renewal*

#### Prayers on Renewal:

- **Pujya Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati ji**, Secretary General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, President, Divine Shakti Foundation
- **Dr A.K.Merchant**, National Trustee, Lotus Temple & Baha'i Community of India; General Secretary, Temple of Understanding India Foundation
- **Venerable Halyale Wimalarathana THERO**, International Buddhist Foundation (IBF), Sri Lanka

#### Highlights and Recommendations of the Opening Session:

- **Rev Aquarius Gilmer**

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## SESSION 1 (1h30 min)

### ENSURING THE PROVISION OF HIV SERVICES DURING COVID-19: BEST PRACTICES by FAITH GROUPS

The purpose of the session is to receive an update on COVID-19 and its impact on HIV; to learn about guidelines for religious leaders and faith-based communities on the coronavirus pandemic; to share the latest challenges posed by COVID-19 in the provision of HIV services; and to present best practices by faith care health providers and communities, with particular emphasis to Africa and the role of black church traditions in the United States  
7:40 – 9:00 am San Francisco / 10:40 – 12:00 New York / 4:40 – 6:00 pm Geneva / 5:40 – 7:00 pm Nairobi / 8:10 – 10:00 pm Mumbai / 9:40 – 11:00 pm Bangkok

#### Prayer in Time of COVID-19:

- **Rabbi Joshwa Lesser**

#### Setting the Scene:

**Facilitator: Sarah Hess**, Technical Officer, High Impact Events Preparedness, Global Infectious Hazards Preparedness, Emergency Preparedness, WHO EPI WIN: *Practical considerations and recommendations for religious leaders and faith-based communities in the context of COVID-19*

- **Shannon Hader**, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS: *Human Rights & HIV in time of COVID-19*
- **Dr. Catherine Godfrey**, PEPFAR: *PEPFAR Technical Guidance in Context of COVID-19 Pandemic*

#### Best Practices Session 1:

HIV service delivery best practices by FCHPs and faith groups during COVID-19

**Facilitator: Sarah Hess** Technical Officer, High Impact Events Preparedness, Global Infectious Hazards Preparedness, Emergency Preparedness, WHO EPI WIN

- **Nantongo Josephine Mugume**, HIV Coordinator & Paediatrician Kisiizi Hospital, Uganda: *Caring and treating HIV+ children in times of COVID-19*
- **Phumzile Mndzebele**, CDC Eswatini, *HIVST in faith communities and by faith leaders during COVID-19*

**Video:** Faith Leaders: Overcome the Stigma of COVID-19 by Caring, Connecting, and Celebrating, CDC

#### Q&A session

**Facilitator: Sarah Hess**, Technical Officer, High Impact Events Preparedness, Global Infectious Hazards Preparedness, Emergency Preparedness, WHO EPI WIN

The facilitator will facilitate the Q&A session, introduce and moderate the Best Practices Session 2

**Best Practices Session 2:** The panelists will speak about progress and limitations of faith-based efforts to address HIV in the U.S, including during COVID-19. They will focus on challenges and opportunities. The speakers represent the research and community engagement efforts of U.S. universities to partner with Black Church Traditions in the U.S.

*“Nothing About Us Without Us:” The Challenges in Listening to Those Most Affected When Responding to HIV and to COVID :*

- **Eddie Jackson**, Program Manager for Community Engagement at the Center for AIDS Research, University of Alabama Birmingham
- **Reverend Kimberly Jackson**, Episcopal priest and co-facilitator Sacred Voices: Black Gay Men’s Religious and Spiritual Perspectives, Emory University
- **Justin Smith**, Director of the Campaign to End AIDS and co-facilitator of Sacred Voices

#### Q&A session

**Facilitator: Sarah Hess**, Technical Officer, High Impact Events Preparedness, Global Infectious Hazards Preparedness, Emergency Preparedness, WHO EPI WIN

#### Music, Song, Prayer:

- **Children & Youth from Kenya (INERELA+)**

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## SESSION 2 (60 min)

### STORIES OF RESILIENCE

The purpose of the session is to describe key recommendations for a greater faith engagement to address HIV. This will be done as participants celebrate and get inspired by committed and passionate people engaged in the HIV response, learning from their experience and journey.

**9:00 – 10:00 am San Francisco / 12:00 – 1:00 pm New York / 6:00 – 7:00 pm Geneva / 7:00 – 8:00 pm Nairobi / 10:00 – 11:00 pm Mumbai / 11:00 – 12:00 pm Bangkok**

**Facilitator: Rev Aquarius Gilmer**

#### Stories of Resilience:

In a Dialogue Format, the speakers will share their personal experience and journey inspiring participants to recommit to a holistic, comprehensive response to HIV that acknowledges the innate dignity of every human person.

- **Rev. Christo Greyling**, Senior Director – Faith and External Engagement, World Vision International, South Africa/The Netherlands - on the value of multireligious collaboration
- **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda**, Human Rights Advocate, Former African Union Goodwill Ambassador - on addressing sexual violence & Ending Child Marriage, Zimbabwe
- **Nukshinaro Ao (Naro)**, Vice President of Nagaland Users Network, Nagaland, India - on drug users, HIV and faith
- **Waheedah Shabazz-EL**, Community Organizer/Trainer, Faith & HIV Consultant, Positive Women's Network, Founding Member, The Reunion Project- Steering Committee, Prevention Access Campaign, U=U, AIDS Law Project of PA- Board Member, Philadelphia FIGHT, Goodwill Ambassador, U.S.A - on Positive Women
- **Sr Dee Smith**, Maryknoll Missionary, Guatemala - on resilience in faith communities – HIV, TB & COVID-19
- **Prashant Sharma**, Community Activist working on HIV, Hepatitis, TB, drug use – on Community Resilience in the HIV response.

#### Interactive session:

- **Rev Aquarius Gilmer** will facilitate an interactive discussion among the speakers and participants

#### Song of Hope:

- **Children & Youth from Kenya (INERELA+)**
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## Day 2: Wednesday, 23 September 2020

### SESSION 3 1h30m

#### AIDS 2020 HIGHLIGHTS WITH A FAITH PERSPECTIVE

The purpose of the session is to share and examine key findings from AIDS 2020 from which faith groups and communities could benefit in their activities

6:30 – 8:00 am San Francisco / 9:30 – 11:00 am New York / 3:30 - 5:00 pm Geneva / 4:30 – 6:00 pm Nairobi / 7 – 8:30 pm Mumbai / 8:30 – 10:00 pm Bangkok

**Facilitator:** Rev Aquarius Gilmer

#### Music & Song:

- Children & Youth from Kenya (INERELA+)

#### Prayer on Resilience & Celebrating Progress:

- **George S. Kerr III**, Founder/CEO G III Associates. Co-Moderator for The Presbyterian HIV Network (PHIVN) PHEWA, Presbyterian Church, USA

#### Presentations:

- **Ulysses Burley III**, Founder UBtheCURE LLC: *What faith groups can learn from the science, research and information presented at AIDS 2020?* - Key findings from AIDS 2020, Status, Scientific Update and Social Dynamics of the AIDS epidemic
- **Renatta Langlais**, YPlusGlobal, *My vision to better address HIV together with “positive faiths in action”* - Perspective and takes from AIDS 2020 and recommendations by a young positive woman to faith groups and leaders

#### Interactive session

#### Prayer - Celebrating progress and recommitting to HIV:

- **Asina Shenduli**, The National Muslim Council Tanzania

#### Highlights and Recommendations of the Opening Session:

- **Rev Aquarius Gilmer**

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### SESSION 4 (1h30m)

#### USING DATA to DOCUMENT the IMPACT of FAITH MODELS: Posters from AIDS 2020

The purpose of the session is to share faith models of successful provision of HIV services and care to people living with HIV which have been presented at the virtual International AIDS Conference in July 2020 and to reflect on ways such models could be replicated

8:00 – 9:30 am San Francisco / 11:00 – 12:30 am New York / 5:00 – 6:30 pm Geneva / 6:00 – 7:30 pm Nairobi / 8:30 – 10:00 pm Mumbai / 10:00 – 11:30 pm Bangkok

**Facilitator:** Susan Hillis, PhD, MS, Senior Advisor for the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator & Senior Advisor in Global Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### Posters:

- **Gibstar Makangila**, Executive Director, Circle of Hope Zambia: Faith-engaged community posts associated with over 1200% increase in new HIV case ascertainment, with high linkage and retention, Zambia
- **Lydia Korir**, Program Manager, CARE for AIDS, Kenya: Achieving Viral Load Suppression and Quality of Life for HIV+ Adults in Kenya
- **Echo Vanderwal**, Managing Executive Director, and **Colin Moody**, Senior Strategist, The Luke Commission, Eswatini: Increasing PrEP Uptake through HTS Counselor Sensitization, Integrated Screening, and Client Education
- **Fr Richard W. Bauer**, MM, BCC, LCSW, Director of Spiritual and Psychosocial Care, EDARP Kenya

### Interactive debate

### Highlights and recommendations:

- **Susan Hillis**, PhD, MS, Senior Advisor for the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator & Senior Advisor in Global Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### Prayers on Resilience & Renewal:

- **Imam Daniel Hernandez**, Imam of the ISGH Pearland Islamic Center in TX and President of the Houston Imams Association
- **Saphira Rameshfar**, Bahá'í International Community
- **Rev Phumzile Mabizela**, Executive Director, Network of Religious Leaders Living with or personally affected by HIV and AIDS (INERELA+)

### Music, Song, Prayer:

- **Children & Youth from Kenya** (INERELA+)

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## Day 3: Thursday, 24 September

### SESSION 5 (1h30)

#### RENEWAL: RECOMMITTING FAITH TO THE HIV RESPONSE

The purpose of the session is to look at some challenges posed by HIV nowadays, in particular towards marginalized groups, and to propose actions that faith groups, communities and individuals could take for a better coordinated and more effective HIV response. Through this session, the experiences and perspectives of young people, those living with HIV, and members of marginalized communities disproportionately impacted by HIV, will inform the content and action steps that will emerge from the HIV Interfaith Conference

**6:30 – 8:00 am San Francisco / 9:30 – 11:00 am New York / 3:30 - 5:00 pm Geneva / 4:30 – 6:00 pm Nairobi / 7 – 8:30 pm Mumbai / 8:30 – 10:00 pm Bangkok**

#### Music:

- **Children & Youth from Kenya** (INERELA+)

**Facilitator:** **Laurel Sprague**, Chief, Community Mobilization, Department of Gender, Human Rights and Community Engagement, UNAIDS

#### Key Note Speech:

**His Eminence Cardinal Michael Czerney**, SJ, Migrants and Refugees Section, Integral Human Development, Vatican: *Resilience & Renewal: Faith in the HIV Response*

#### Dialogue on Renewal among members of key populations and vulnerable groups:

- **Brian Otieno**, Team Lead, Alfajiri Network, Kenya: *HIV, young people and mental health*
- **Valeria Rachynska**, Director of the Department for Work with the Regions, “All- Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS”, Ukraine: *Building bridges among Networks of People Living with HIV & Faith Groups*
- **Kunal Kishore**: Associate Director at India HIV Aids Alliance: *HIV, Harm reduction, and drug control*
- **Derrick Malumo**, Executive Director, PREP, Prisoner Reintegration and Empowerment Organisation, Zambia: *HIV, prisoners & the role of faith*
- **Rep from PATA**: *The role of faith communities in promoting the rights and wellbeing of children and adolescents*

**Interfaith Prayer** - Joint prayer by faith leaders and members of faith communities from different faith traditions & symbolic action

#### Music:

- **Children & Youth from Kenya** (INERELA+)

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## **SESSION 6** (45 min)

### **REPORTS FROM THE SESSIONS & CALL TO ACTION FOR FAITH LEADERS & COMMUNITIES**

The purpose of the session is to summarize key findings and recommendations from the HIV Interfaith Conference and to agree on a Call to Action for faith leaders and communities for a greater faith engagement on HIV

**8:00 – 8:45 am San Francisco / 11:00 – 11:45 am New York / 5:00 – 5:45 pm Geneva / 6:00 – 6:45 pm Nairobi / 8:30 – 9:15 pm Mumbai / 10:00 – 10:45 pm Bangkok**

**Facilitator:** Rev Aquarius Gilmer

#### **Reports from the Interfaith Conference:**

- **Khadijah Abdullah**, founder, Reaching All HIV+ Muslims In America (RAHMA): Opening Session – RESILINCE
- **Manoj Kurian**, Coordinator, World Council of Churches – Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (WCC-EAA): Session 1 - ENSURING THE PROVISION OF HIV SERVICES DURING COVID-19: BEST PRACTICES by FAITH GROUPS
- **Subhi Dhupar**, Regional Coordinator, North zone, India and supervising Afghanistan, United Religions Initiative (URI): Session 2 – STORIES OF RESILIENCE
- **Ulysses Burley III**, Founder UBtheCURE LLC: Session 3 – AIDS 2020 HIGHLIGHTS WITH A FAITH ANGLE
- **Ahoua Kone**, Manager, Research Projects, Interfaith Health Program | CHAMPS Network, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University: Session 4 - USING DATA to DOCUMENT the IMPACT of FAITH MODELS: Posters from AIDS 2020
- **George S. Kerr III**, Founder/CEO G III Associates. Co-Moderator for The Presbyterian HIV Network (PHIVN) PHEWA, Presbyterian Church, USA: Session 5 - RENEWAL

#### **CALL TO ACTION**

A Call to Action based on actions and recommendations identified during the HIV Interfaith Conference will be finalized and shared with participants. The Call to Action for faith leaders and communities will focus on four areas:

1. Increasing access;
  2. Promoting human rights;
  3. Addressing stigma and discrimination;
  4. Building multireligious collaboration and bridges among faith and non-faith actors.
- **Francesca Merico**, Technical Support, Faith Engagement, UNAIDS-PEPFAR Faith Initiative: Overview of the Call to Action
  - **Members of the HIV Interfaith Conference Planning Team:** The Call to Action

**Renewal:** motivational speech and prayer

**Bishop Yvette Flunder**, City of Refuge United Church of Christ (UCC), Oakland U.S: *The Journey of Faiths in the HIV Response and the Urgency of recommitting faiths to the HIV response*



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## **CLOSING SESSION** (55 min)

**8:45 – 9:40 am San Francisco / 11:45 – 12:40 am New York / 5:45 – 6:40 pm Geneva / 6:45 – 7:40 pm Nairobi / 9:15 – 10:10 pm Mumbai / 10:45 – 11:40 pm Bangkok**

### **LAUNCH OF THE INTERFAITH HEALTH PLATFORM**

The purpose of the session is to launch the Interfaith Health Platform a multi-religious collaborative space for capacity building, awareness raising and joint advocacy among faith groups, organisations and communities engaged in HIV and AIDS. It offers access to best practices and to resources developed by faith groups. The platform is also meant to document the impact of faith models and share them for a more effective HIV response, including under the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Facilitator:** Rev Aquarius Gilmer

**Francesca Merico**, Technical Support, Faith Engagement, UNAIDS-PEPFAR Faith Initiative: Launch of the Virtual Platform and of the webinar series for networking, sharing, capacity building, and joint advocacy

### **Interactive Dialogue on Call to Action and Virtual Platform**

#### **Prayers – Renewal & the Urgency to Act:**

- **Imam Abdul Azeez**, Resident Imam of Al Masjidu Adam Community life Center for Human Excellence, President of Ash Shifaa inc Executive Board of CWSC community wide shura Conference, Director of the CWSC NLAC National Leadership Advisory Council, and Director of the CWSC's Ambassador Program
- **Rabbi Denise Eger**, Congregation Kol Ami, Past President, Central Conference of American Rabbis
- **Esther Mombo**, Professor, St Paul University, Kenya

#### **Closing remarks:**

- **Shannon Hader**, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS
- **Sandra Thurman**, Chief Strategy Officer, Office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy, US Department of State (Washington, DC, USA)
- **Monsignor Robert J. Vitillo**, Secretary General, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC); Health Attaché, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See at the United Nations and other International Organizations (Geneva), Switzerland

#### **Music:**

- **Children & Youth from Kenya** (INERELA+)
-