

Spirituality, Mental Health and Resilience during the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and HIV

The role of faith communities and faith groups' promising practices

Thursday 4 February 2021

5:30-7:30 am San Francisco / 8:30-10:30 am New York / 1:30-3:30 pm Dakar /
2:30-4:30 pm Geneva / 4:30-6:30 Nairobi / 7:00-9:00 pm Mumbai / 8:30-10:30

Bangkok

Virtual – UNAIDS Platform (Zoom) + YouTube

Interpretation: English, French, Spanish

[PLEASE REGISTER HERE](#)

<https://www.interfaith-health-platform.org/webinar-spirit-mental-h-resilience>

Expected Outcomes

Raise awareness on the issues among faith communities; identify key recommendations for follow up to guide participants on issues of mental health; present best practices – resources; network/strengthen collaboration with groups working on HIV/mental health/COVID-19.

Agenda

Overview and Session 1 – Mental Health in the dual pandemics: what spirituality, resilience and a human rights-based approach have to offer?

- *Dainius Pūras*, Director, Human Rights Monitoring Institute, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Vilnius university, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health: **A human rights based approach to mental health**
- *Ani Shakarishvili*, Special Adviser, Programme Partnerships, UNAIDS: Mental health and HIV: **An imperative and an opportunity for integrated people-centered and human rights-based programmes and services for better HIV and health outcomes and wellbeing**
- *Rev. Sarah Lund*, United Church of Christ Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice: **Spiritual Care Tools for Community Mental Health**
- *Sabrina T. Cherry*, Interdisciplinary Qualitative Studies Certificate, Assistant Professor, Public Health Faculty Fellow, UNCW Center For Social Impact: **Impact of spirituality on resilience and coping during the COVID-19 crisis - A mixed-method approach investigating the impact on women**

Best Practices & Lessons Learned Session: HIV & COVID-19

- *Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga*, President of the Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV
- *Nkatha Njeru*, Coordinator, Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP)
- *Applesta Da Costa*, Program Lead, Psychosocial Support for interventions in mental health, Human Touch, Goa, India
- *Fr Rick Bauer*, Director of Spiritual and Psychosocial Support for the Eastern Deanery AIDS Relief program in Nairobi, Kenya: **Spirituality, Mental Health and Resilience during the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and HIV: Understandings and practices from EDARP**

Background Resources

Please visit <https://www.interfaith-health-platform.org/spirituality-mentalhealth-resilience> for available resources.

- Webinar Series: "What Is Spiritual Care in Light of COVID-19 from the Perspectives of Different Religious Traditions?": <https://ia-sc.org/webinar/>
- Impact of spirituality on resilience and coping during the COVID-19 crisis: A mixed-method approach investigating the impact on women
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07399332.2020.1832097?fbclid=IwAR2lXYx1EqE62dyBQQbhlmjnUa_ru-hwfNLvEyPWFipuX_eRsdIFYessdbU
- UNAIDS PCB report (47 session, December 2020): Mental Health & HIV
https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/Mental_Health_%26_HIV_EN.pdf
- <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Health/Pages/Dainius-Puras.aspx>

2021 Interfaith Health Platform Webinars

1. Migration and HIV: follow up to the workshops 2019 (Geneva and Africa) – and trainings on HIVST and PrEP (**April**)
2. Workshop on the role of faith communities in strengthening adolescent peer groups. Bring together participants with first-hand experience and promising practice interventions, particularly including young people involved the interventions; Experience of adolescents' groups to work on disclosure (with FBOs); and challenges faced by FBOs to address human sexuality (pivot from children to adolescents' care and support) (**June**)
3. Framework for Dialogue and Stigma reduction interventions (**September**)
4. Webinar to commemorate World AIDS Day + Interfaith Service (**December**)