



WE ARE AT A CRITICAL CROSSROADS IN OUR RESPONSE TO HIV

The economic crisis and 'AIDS fatigue' have weakened efforts to prevent the spread of HIV, provide life-saving treatment, and support and care for the tens of millions of people living with HIV, not to mention affected families and communities.

Religious leaders from many faiths and from around the world have committed themselves personally to do more. Their personal commitment can help provide important new momentum in the global response – overcoming stigma and discrimination, promoting prevention, ensuring treatment and care, advocating for sufficient and sustainable resources to help all those in need.

Please join them. Whether you are a religious leader at a local, national or international level, you can make a difference to people's lives.



I COMMIT TO THE PLEDGE

Together We Must Do More: My Personal Commitment to Action

Signature:

Address:

Print Name:

Country:

Faith community/Organization:

Phone number:

Email:

(Your name and faith community/organization will be added to the list of signers available at www.HIVcommitment.net. Your contact details will only be used to share information and contacts that may assist you in fulfilling and reporting on the commitment.)



JOIN THESE LEADERS AND MAKE YOUR PLEDGE

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MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO ACTION



TOGETHER WE MUST DO MORE: MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO ACTION

As a religious leader, I am convinced that my faith must be more visible and active to halt the spread of HIV and reverse this pandemic.

For three decades now, HIV has continued to spread across all levels of our societies. Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV continues to fuel ignorance, injustice, denial and hate. At this critical point in the epidemic, I need to be clear in my words and actions that stigma and discrimination towards people living with or affected by HIV is unacceptable.

Fundamental to my faith is the respect for human dignity and the value of human life. Such respect and value is central to my response to HIV.

Therefore, I commit to exercising stronger, more visible, and practical leadership in the response to the HIV pandemic - increasing commitment, deepening meaningful engagement with people living with HIV, and acting decisively to protect human rights within my faith community; through collaboration among other religious leaders of different faiths; and by influencing local, national, regional and global decision-making processes on HIV.

Conscious of the specific needs of all those affected by HIV, this leadership means...

TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV, I COMMIT MYSELF TO:

- Working tirelessly to end all stigmatizing attitudes and actions until people living with HIV are fully included in our religious communities and societies.
- Supporting concerted efforts and partnerships to provide support including health care and education in ways that respect privacy and dignity.
- Seeking to understand and respond to the specific needs and situations of different communities affected by HIV to enable all people living with HIV to participate fully in society.
- Providing spiritual support and resources to give hope and enable positive living, assuring you that HIV cannot separate you from love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness.

TO CHILDREN, I COMMIT TO:

- Recognizing your rights, including health, education and support, that will help you celebrate childhood and learn values and ethical practices for safer and healthier living.

TO YOUNG PEOPLE, I COMMIT TO:

- Listening to your needs and empowering you with the values and support to help protect you from violence and suppression and from behaviours that create risks for yourself and others.
- Enabling and facilitating your leadership and participation.



TO WOMEN AND GIRLS, I COMMIT TO:

- Recognizing your special vulnerability and roles as caregivers and mothers and working tirelessly to ensure you have the services you require for prevention, treatment, care and support.
- Exercising respect and challenging any oppressive systems of power within my religious community and society which fuel violence and injustice.
- Providing space for your voice and leadership in our communities.

TO MEN AND BOYS, I COMMIT TO:

- Encouraging understanding of power that allows people to relate to one another with dignity and love.
- Supporting leadership and decision making that addresses the root causes of HIV.

TO MY RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, I COMMIT TO:

- Doing all I can to break the barriers of silence and exclusion to fully and openly include people living with HIV and their families in our religious communities.
- Leading by example and encouraging my religious community to deepen its engagement in the response to HIV, including advocating for prevention, treatment, care and support for all.

TO NETWORKS, ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, I COMMIT TO:

- Fully supporting all efforts to extend services and support that will enable an HIV-free generation by 2015.
- Challenging and supporting governments to meet their moral duty to implement their promises on HIV in their priorities, practices and financial support.
- Partnering with you to combine our experiences, approaches and expertise to reach our common goal of halting the spread of HIV and reversing the pandemic.

TO THOSE I AM ADDRESSING IN THIS PLEDGE AND TO OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO JOIN ME IN THIS COVENANT/PLEDGE, I COMMIT TO:

- Reporting through available channels every 18 months how I have worked to fulfill my pledge. (September 2011, March 2013 and September 2014.)

**Signed by participants of the Summit of High Level Religious Leaders
on the Response to HIV, held in the Netherlands, 22-23 March 2010:**

Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, World YWCA
Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Art of Living
Rabbi David Rosen, American Jewish Committee
Right Rev. Gunnar Stålsett,
European Council of Religious Leaders
Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, Abyssinian Baptist NYC/
National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS
His Holiness Abune Paulos, Ethiopian Orthodox
Tewahedo Church
Sheikh Mohamed Gemea, Al-Azhar Al-Sharief
Rev. Mark S. Hanson, President of The Lutheran World
Federation/Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America
Sheikh Ali Banda, INERELA+ (International Network of
Religious Leaders Living With or Personally Affected by HIV
or AIDS)
Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, Rabbinical Assembly
Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, World Council of Churches
Tarmizi Taher, Indonesian Mosque Assembly
Swami Agnivesh, World Council of Arya Samaj
Dr Hany El Banna, The Humanitarian Forum
Dr Furi Khabirpour, Baha'i Faith
Archbishop Thabo Makgoba,
Anglican Archbishop of Southern Africa
Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh,
Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha/Sikh
Bishop Julio E. Murray,
Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI)
Most Venerable Ch.Dambajav, Mongolia

Rev. Dr Richard Fee, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance
Imam Cisse Djigui,
Foundation Djigui/Religious Alliance in Ivory Coast
Rev. Patricia Sawo, INERELA+
Rev. Dra Ofelia Ortega Suarez,
Vice-President of the Alliance of Reformed Churches
Bishop Gerald Seale
Dr. Hesameddin Ashena
Rev. Canon Gideon Byamugisha
Christian Aid/Friends of Canon Gideon Foundation
Mohammad Sammak, Christian Muslim Committee
Bishop James Okombo, INERELA+ Kenya
Rev. J.P. Mokgethi-Heath, INERELA+
Venerable Oeun Sam Art, Office of the Great
Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Cambodia
Annabel Laity True Virtue, Unified Buddhist Church
Sr. Jewel – Kaira S. Lingo, Unified Buddhist Church/
European Institute of Applied Buddhism
Rev Aiah Foday-Khabenje,
Association of Evangelicals in Africa
Dr Kezevino Aram, Director, Shanti Ashram
Rev. Christo Greyling,
World Vision International and INERELA+
Rev. Rachel Carnegie, Archbishop of Canterbury's
Secretary for International Development
Prudence Mabele, Nyangazezizwe Traditional Healers
Dr Syeda Sultana Razia
Dr Farid Esak, University of Johannesburg

MAKE YOUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT

You can add your signature by:

- Filling in the form on reverse and sending it to:
Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance
P.O. Box 2100
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 710 2387
- Filling in the form online at:
www.HIVcommitment.net
- Emailing the information to
signatures@HIVcommitment.net