



INTERFAITH CONVENTION REPORT 2025



Contents

Introduction	4
Youth Pre-convention	6
Plenary Sesions	9
- Leveraging on the women and youth population: scores, misses and opportunities	10
- Funding – changing landscapes, global trends: experiences, challenges and opportunities	11
- Addressing challenging topics with faith actors - the platter Panel	12
Track sessions	15
Women's Rights & Gender Justice	15
- Interfaith Approaches: Sacred Texts, Gender, and Human Rights	15
- Experiential Sharing: Personal Journeys of Women in Leadership	16
- Getting Real with Faith –Open live session: Faith and Gender Identity	17
- World Café Methodology - Transforming Masculinities in Faith-Based Contexts	19
- Panel Discussion: – Faith Leaders as Advocates for Gender Justice	20
- Genz's Voice: Meaningful engagement of young people at decision-making tables	21
- Panel discussion: The evolving structures of Family and Marriage - The Faith perspective	22
Family Health & Well-being	24
- Understanding Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights - Context and Trends	24
- Transforming Norms: Faith leaders' interventions transforming social norms	27
affecting uptake of SRH services and information in communities	
- Exhibition Market: A marketplace of Ideas and Solutions on SRHR	29
- SMART Advocacy in SRHR: Strategies for Policy Change	31
- YEMAYA HEALTH- EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF FAITH ACTORS	33
- Ethical and Religious Perspectives: Navigating the complex ethical and religious	35
views on SRHR	
- Future directions for the Network: Interfaith collaboration for SRHR: Developing a	
unified voice for advocacy on SRHR	37
Peacecul, Just & inclusive Communities	40
- Faith and coexistence: Re-reading texts to build peaceful coexistence	40
- Words that heal faith leaders confronting structural violence	41
- Mosques, temples, churches: safe spaces for conflict prevention	43
- Connecting young people towards a culture of Peace	44
- Evidence and research	46
- Faith, Facts, and Algorithms: Navigating Religious Disinformation and Artificial	47
Intelligence for Social Justice	
- From the shadows to recognition: repositioning women as pillars of lasting peace	48
Side Meetings	50
Awards	52
Convention Statements	54

Acronyms

ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
CCIH	Christian Connections for International Health
CHPs	Community Health Promoters
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
ELCJHL	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
F2A NYV 2025	Faith to Action Network Youth Voices 2025
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FoRB	Freedom of Religion or Belief
FP	Family Planning
FP2030	Family Planning 2030
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ISJA	Intersectionality-See-Judge-Act
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PSFG	Peace Security Funders Group
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
WGDY	Women, Gender, Development and Youth Directorate (AU)
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association



Introduction

Faith to Action Network has held three previous Conventions (2019, 2021, 2023). As part of its mandate, Faith to Action Network leverages on these platforms to promote experience sharing and learning among the faith organizations and also with secular organisations. The Network held its 4th Convention from 23rd-25th September 2025.

The Interfaith Convention 2025 theme, **Faith Actors: Stewards of change**, reaffirmed the responsibility of faith actors to serve not only as moral guides but as active and responsible change agents. Amid rising global inequalities, social fragmentation, and shrinking civic space, this convention sought to spotlight the unique role of faith communities in healing divides, advancing rights, and building inclusive, compassionate societies.

About Faith to Action Network

Faith to Action Network is an interfaith network of faith organisations from Bahai, Buddhist, Confucian, Hindu, Christian and Muslim organisations. It offers faith organisations a platform to engage on issues they are grappling with, in particular, women's rights and gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, peaceful, just and inclusive communities.

Our members' faith traditions call on us to uphold human dignity, human wellbeing and social and gender justice. Sometimes, our diverse faith teachings lack answers to the everyday challenges faced by communities. However, we all have a mutual interest in finding solutions to shared problems and articulating a compassionate voice. We look for opportunities to engage in brave debates, mutual learning, increased collaboration, while partnering constructively with other faith organisations, governments and other stakeholders. We are convinced that when we all join hands, we can exert powerful influence on leaders and communities for better health, gender justice and peaceful coexistence. Faith to Action Network brings together diverse faith actors and faith institutions – clergy, lay, youth, women and men - to engage in dialogues that addresses the day-to-day issues of all communities in safe spaces. A foundation laid in interfaith partnership and collaboration to address shared challenges and advance common good is key in harmonious living.

Convention Objectives

The objectives of 4th Convention sought to stimulate participants to better understand, engage and plan action on:

- Freedom of Religion and Belief in order to advance peaceful coexistence and pluralism.
- Gender just laws, policies, norms, and practices.
- Improved Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.
- Building a faith actors' movement
- Resourcing interventions to promote stewardship in shifting funding contexts.

Participants Overview

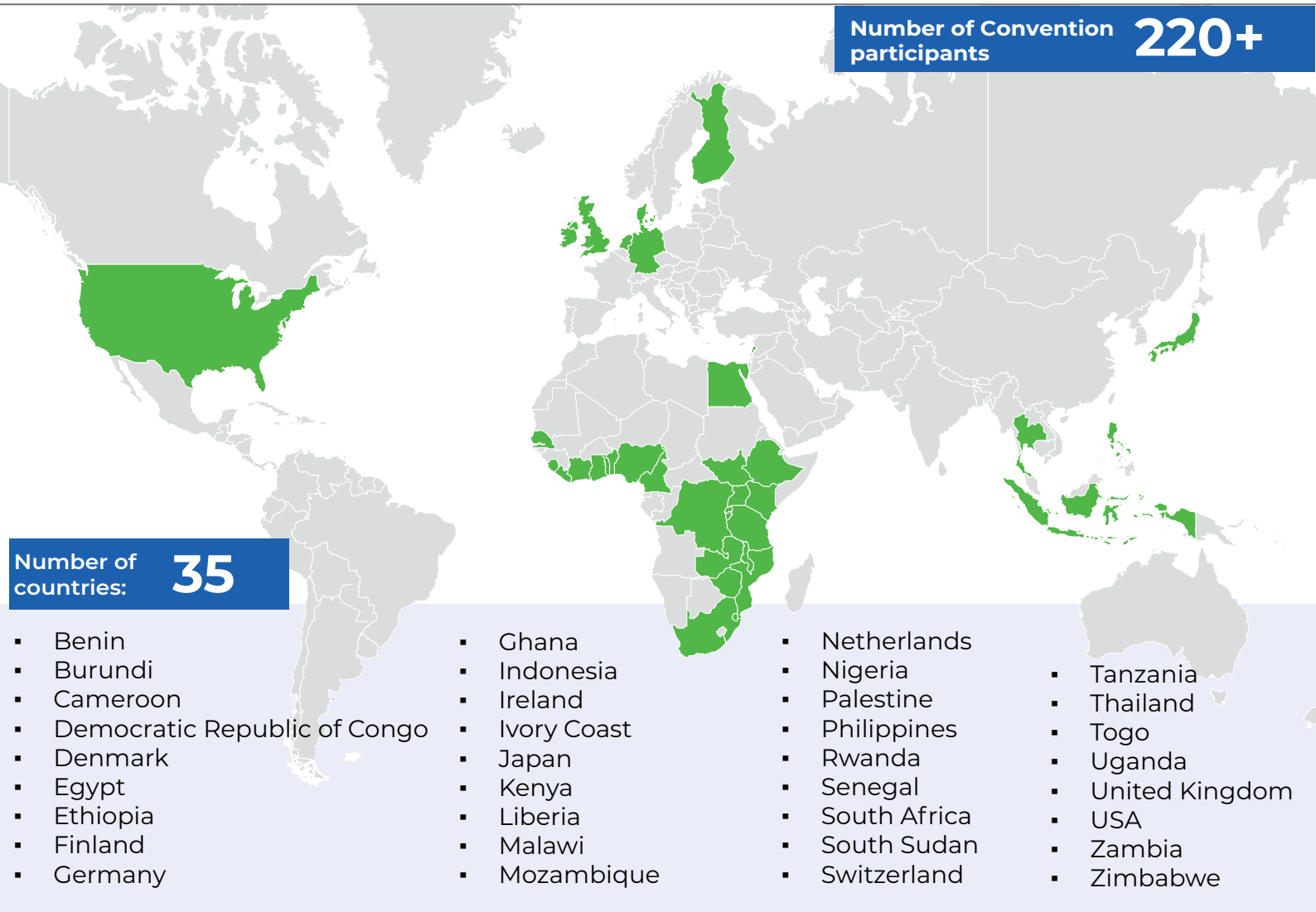
The 2025 Faith to Action Network Convention brought together a diverse community of faith actors and other stakeholders seeking a safe space for expression and transparent dialogue on divergent views, with the shared goal of advancing meaningful interfaith action. The convention convened participants from **35 countries**, reflecting the global reach of the network and its partners.

Attendees included representatives from **Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, Confucian, Orthodox, African Traditional Religion, and Muslim communities**, alongside **youth and women of faith, clergy and lay leaders, theologians, scholars, faith-based practitioners, and civil society allies**. This wide range of participants ensured inclusive and well-rounded perspectives during discussions and collaborative sessions.

The delegation was drawn from East Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Southeast Asia, and the Americas, with particularly strong representation from regions where Faith to Action Network and its partners actively operate. The diversity of cultural, national, and ethnic backgrounds enriched the convention’s dialogue and strengthened its emphasis on collective action across faith traditions.

The convention’s three days and youth pre-convention included panel discussions, interactive break-out sessions and plenary discussions. Breakout sessions focused on issues relating to: **Advancing women’s rights and gender justice, Faith partnering for justice, peace and inclusivity, and Health rights.**

During these sessions, a drafting committee composed of selected conference participants prepared Interfaith Statements for the three thematic tracks, along with a dedicated youth statement. These drafts were presented and approved during the closing ceremony and can be found under the section titled “**Convention Statements.**”



Youth Pre-Convention

To center intergenerational leadership and amplify youth voices, the Interfaith Convention 2025 included a Youth Pre-Convention, scheduled on 22nd September, 2025.

This dedicated youth space brought together young faith leaders and activists from across traditions and regions who are passionate about challenging harmful norms, promoting justice, and leading positive change within their communities.

Goal

To empower and amplify youth voices in faith-based advocacy by equipping them with the skills, mentorship, platforms, and support systems needed to meaningfully engage in interfaith dialogue and champion key issues like SRHR, peacebuilding, gender justice, and inclusive communities, both during the Interfaith Convention and beyond.

Objectives

- ◇ Share their experiences and visions for faith-driven change
- ◇ Explore the role of youth in upholding human dignity and social justice
- ◇ Build skills in interfaith dialogue, advocacy, and digital engagement
- ◇ Strengthen youth-led networks and strategize for collective action

The youth pre-convention included sessions of interaction and dialogue with faith actors, especially senior religious leaders and theologians) to share the challenges and opportunities young people face within diverse contexts in responding to rights violations.

The outcomes and insights from the Youth Pre-Conference directly informed the main Convention, ensuring that young people are not only included but are actively shaping the interfaith agenda.



Centering Youth Agency in Peace and Justice

The discussion highlighted that sustainable peace and justice cannot be externally imposed. Instead, youth must define, pursue, and own these processes within their communities.

Diversity in Youth Definition:

Definitions of “youth” vary across contexts – UN (18–24), AU/Kenya (18–35), Uganda/Tanzania (18–45). Interventions must therefore be context-specific, rather than one-size-fits-all.

Youth as a Vital Demographic:

With young people constituting the largest demographic globally, their participation is indispensable for shaping peace and justice agendas.

Localized Justice:

Victims of FGM, GBV, or tragedies such as the Shakahola cult must define what justice means to them; punitive measures alone do not heal deep communal wounds.

Critique of Prescriptive Models:

Civil society and NGOs often impose solutions that misinterpret local realities. True empowerment comes from building young people’s capacities to identify and implement their own responses.

Takeaway:

Peace and justice are not only about large-scale conflict resolution but also about everyday interactions, grounded in local realities and youth-led definitions of justice.

Faith-Based Advocacy: From Gatekeeping to Gate-Opening

Fr. Godfrey Owino Adera emphasized the principle of “Humanity First” and the urgent need for religious leaders to move from gatekeeping (condemnation, exclusion) to gate-opening (inclusion, dignity, and support).

- **Ubuntu Lens:** Humanity and interconnectedness must guide responses, ensuring kindness and prevention of harm.
- **Challenging Harmful Practices:** Illustrative cases included the stigmatization of a gay student denied burial rites and a pregnant teenager forced into public shaming rituals. Adera reframed these as failures of religious institutions acting as gatekeepers.
- **Faith-Infused Advocacy:**
 - Gate-opening to SRHR, education, and social services.
 - Intersectional collaboration across health, law, and rights sectors.
 - A decolonial framing of SRHR—positioning it as an African concern grounded in dignity and values, not a foreign agenda.
 - Courage to name taboo issues (abortion, contraception) and provide accurate information to counter unsafe practices.
- **ISJA Framework for Training Faith Leaders**
 - Intersectionality** – acknowledging multiple identities.
 - See** – observe realities.
 - Judge** – analyze root causes (e.g., harmful doctrines, gatekeeping).
 - Act** – take informed, inclusive, and restorative action.

Takeaway:

Faith leaders must reimagine their role as enablers of access to SRHR, GBV prevention, and justice—bridging religious values with human dignity.

Youth-Centered Engagement (Interactive Sessions)

Through activities like musical chairs with a twist, the pre-convention underscored teamwork, urgency, and creativity. The exercise symbolized how communities must mobilize collectively to address pressing needs and support their peers.

Storytelling as a Tool for Norm Change

Faith Mwangi-Powell (Girls Not Brides), together with Speak Africa Faith (SAF) and Shujaz, showcased how multi-platform storytelling challenges harmful social norms and advances SRHR, HIV prevention, and GBV reduction among youth (15–24).

- **Surround Sound Approach:**
Coordinated messaging across TV, radio, comics, social media, and community events creates a “dosing effect,” normalizing conversations around sensitive issues.
- **Youth Realities Identified:**
 - For Girls: stigma around sexual agency, disproportionate domestic burdens, and mental health pressures tied to gender expectations.
 - For Boys: toxic masculinity, pressures of financial responsibility, silence around mental health, and harmful online narratives.
- **SRHR and GBV Shifts:**
 - Discretion rather than abstinence as a dominant norm.
 - Persisting stigma around contraception and HIV testing.
 - GBV remains normalized in some settings but is increasingly challenged by families and youth movements.
- **Research & Impact:** Reached 2.1 million unique youth (18–24). The Shujaz chatbot surfaced urgent crises—mental health, GBV, and unintended pregnancies—revealing loneliness in seeking help.

Takeaway:

Storytelling must remain non-preachy, locally rooted, and informed by youth realities to catalyze meaningful social norm change.

Youth Declaration – Interfaith Voices for Justice and Well-Being

The session closed with the 4th Interfaith Youth Convention Declaration (F2A NYV 2025).

- Identity: Youthful activators, mobilizers, and faith leaders rooted in values and faith to pursue justice and well-being.
- Core Values: Support, Inclusivity, Dignity, Empathy, Equity, Justice, Healing,

PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenary Sessions: Situate Efforts in Global Change

The Interfaith Convention plenary sessions were unique opportunities to situate the faith actors' efforts within the changes happening at global level. The Convention recognized that the world today has experienced profound changes. It further acknowledged that faith actors remain resilient, resolute and relevant.

Amidst the ongoing wars in different parts of the world, deepening extremism, retreat into narrow nationalism, as well as the backlash against women's rights and sexual reproductive health and rights, people of faith continue to present effective responses.

Driven by their deep convictions and commitment to the health, dignity and flourishing of all, faith actors sustain their communities and contribute to global peace and security, health, women rights and gender justice and inclusion of the marginalized.

The plenary sessions sought to give participants enlightenment as they discussed various thematic issues in parallel sessions.

Plenary Session Objectives



Global Responsiveness

Gain insights on how to respond to global changes and sustain impactful community engagements in family health, women's rights, gender justice, and other emerging issues.



Enlightening Dialogue

Create a platform for sharing enlightenment on emerging issues and trends, their impact on faith communities' interventions, and illuminating pathways for engagement and response.

Leveraging on the women and youth population: scores, misses and opportunities

The opening plenary welcomed participants and introduced them to Faith to Action Network. Introducing the convention theme “**Faith Actors: Stewards of Change**,” aims and objectives.

Objectives

- Gain insights on how to respond to global changes and sustain impactful community engagements in family health, women’s rights, gender justice, and other emerging issues.
- Create a platform for sharing enlightenment on emerging issues and trends, their impact on faith communities’ interventions, and illuminating pathways for engagement and response.

Panel:

- **Ngwenya Nonkululeko Prudence** - Director, African Union’s Women, Gender, Development and Youth Directorate (WGDY).
- **Anchalee Kurutach** - Women and Peace Program Coordinator, International Network of Engaged Buddhists.
 - Regional Network for Peace Builders: fostering intra- and interfaith collaboration and empowering women peacebuilders.
- **Honorable Demba Keita** - National Assembly of Senegal.
 - Partnership with legislators in advocacy and policy change.
- **Grethe Petersen** - Amplify Change.
 - Building partnerships between faith and faith neutral agencies for greater impact.

Session moderator

Peter K. Munene - CEO, Faith to Action Network

Key Session Conclusions

1. Faith actors have immense influence in their communities.
2. Women and youth voices must be heard and amplified.
3. Change requires concerted efforts, unity, and strategic advocacy.
4. Effective work for change is best achieved in collaboration, not in silos.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations



- Collaboration among all stakeholders is essential.
- Faith communities are critical players and must be included in advocacy efforts.
- Faith actors command sizeable and engaged constituencies.
- Promote inclusive leadership, particularly increased participation of women and youth in faith leadership roles.

“Policy and advocacy cannot be done by one person – it requires collaboration among all stakeholders.”

- Grethe Petersen,
CEO Amplify Change

Funding – changing landscapes, global trends: experiences, challenges and opportunities

Panel:

- **Mark Chataway** - Managing Partner, Global Health Practice
 - **Changing landscapes & new funding models**
 - Global trends: experiences, challenges and opportunities
- **Cath Thompson** - PSFG
 - **US and Foundation-based funding opportunities for peace**
 - Global trends: experiences, challenges and opportunities
- **Semiha Abdulmelik Ali** - Open Society Foundation
 - **Funding for transformative peace**
 - Global trends: experiences, challenges and opportunities

Session moderator

Doug Fountain, Executive Director - CCIH

Objectives

- **To explore the evolving global funding landscape** by examining current trends, donor priorities, and innovative financing models.
- **To share practical experiences from diverse stakeholders** on navigating opportunities and challenges in resource mobilization.
- **To identify strategies that strengthen sustainability, equity, and resilience** of organizations and networks in a shifting funding environment.

Key Session Conclusions

- **Unprecedented funding cuts** are affecting nearly all organizations, urging the need for adaptation.
- **Flexible and diversified funding models** are essential to ensure organizational resilience.
- **Complementary thematic opportunities** should be explored to align with donor priorities.
- **Strong network ecosystems** are key for localization and collective impact.
- New funding models must be **forward-thinking**, addressing both immediate and long-term needs.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- a. Faith networks are trusted partners that bring moral legitimacy, grassroots reach, and proven capacity to translate policies into action – we are essential allies in shaping inclusive and sustainable funding agendas.
- b. Investing in faith-based networks ensures funding reaches the most marginalized, including women, youth, and rural communities often left behind by mainstream financing models.
- c. We call on funders to adopt flexible, long-term, and inclusive financing models that recognize the value of faith actors as catalysts for social transformation.

This session offered a timely and critical analysis of the global funding landscape, encouraging faith-based organizations to adapt through innovation, collaboration, and strategic positioning. The conversation underscored the need for flexible, inclusive, and future-oriented funding models. Faith actors were recognized not just as recipients, but as essential partners in co-creating equitable and sustainable development solutions.

Addressing challenging topics with faith actors - the platter Panel

The session sought to share enlightenment on emerging issues and trends and their impact to interventions of faith communities while illuminating faith actors' pathways of engagement/ responses.

Panel:

- **Rev Dr. Mrs. Uzoaku Juliana Williams** - Minister, Presbyterian Church of Nigeria and Assistant General Secretary of Christian Association of Nigeria.
- Faith, Gender-Based Violence, and Religious Doctrines
- **Prof. Ezra Chitando** - Knowledge Management Advisor, Faith to Action Network.
- Faith and the changing diversity of family & marriage structures
- **Twambilire Mwabungulu** - FP2030 Advocacy and Partnerships Manager
- Faith & FP
- **Rick van der Woud** - Directeur / Chief Executive Officer
- Mensen met een Missie: "To take or not take sides during conflicts – the dilemma of faith actors"

Session moderator: Dr.Neneng Yanti

Objectives

- Explore the role of faith actors in shaping conversations around family planning, gender roles, and inclusion
- Challenge patriarchal and colonial constructs of family and leadership
- Promote inclusive, voluntary, and evidence-based reproductive health approaches
- Uplift the voices of women and persons with disabilities in faith communities
- Transform dominant narratives to shift harmful gender norms and promote justice-centered engagement



Key Session Conclusions

- Family planning must be voluntary, respectful, and faith-supported.
- Traditional family models are social and cultural constructs, not universal truths.
- Inclusive family visions must embrace all identities and orientations.
- Women, especially in rural settings, face systemic barriers in health and leadership
- Persons with disabilities need accessible environments and inclusive programs.
- Body shaming and gendered blame must be dismantled through justice-focused advocacy.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- Support** faith-based working groups that foster open dialogue on sensitive topics like family planning
- Promote inclusive policies** for women, youth, and persons with disabilities within faith institutions
- Reframe family values** to reflect diverse lived realities rather than rigid, traditional norms
- Fund storytelling and media initiatives** to amplify marginalized voices, including women and persons with disabilities
- Advocate for **parental leave and workplace empowerment** for women across sectors
- Equip faith leaders** to challenge harmful narratives and advocate for **equity and justice**

Rick van der Woud offered a deeply reflective and powerful presentation on the complex role of faith actors in conflict zones. He emphasized that:

- » Faith leaders are not meant to take sides but to stand for justice.
- » Their moral authority gives them the ability to navigate divisions and foster healing.
- » The dual responsibility he described as “the fire from above” (spiritual conviction) and “the fire from below” (community realities) helps them guide communities from violence to reconciliation.
- » He rejected neutrality in crises, asserting that silence legitimizes injustice.
- » Rick promoted principled engagement: a strategy rooted in compassion, dialogue, and listening, not imposition
- » He drew examples from Israel-Palestine, Nigeria, Sudan, and DRC, where faith actors played essential roles in conflict transformation.

“Faith leaders are not just messengers of hope; they are bridges of peace who speak truth and remind us of our shared human dignity.”

This session tackled some of the most sensitive but crucial topics facing faith communities today — from family planning and inclusion to dismantling patriarchal narratives. The panel affirmed that faith leaders are not obstacles but powerful allies in advancing reproductive justice, gender equality, and disability inclusion.

With empathy, courage, and commitment to justice, they can reshape the narratives that hold communities back and champion equity and dignity for all.



Track Sessions

WOMEN RIGHTS & GENDER JUSTICE

Session A

Interfaith Approaches: Sacred Texts, Gender, and Human Rights

The session sought to explore the role of sacred texts in promoting or challenging gender justice. The session shared case studies on progressive religious interpretations.

Objectives

Critically examine how sacred texts across faith traditions have been used to both reinforce and challenge gender hierarchies, identifying leverage points for gender justice.

01

Promote Inclusivity:

Identify doctrinal, institutional, and sociocultural factors that impede or enable progressive interpretation and uptake, for inclusion and gender justice.

02

Explore Intersectionality:

Examine the intersections of gender with race, class, religion, and other identities to understand the diverse experiences and challenges faced by marginalized groups.

03

Promote Dialogue:

Facilitate dialogue on how sacred texts across faith traditions have been used to both reinforce and challenge gender hierarchies, identifying leverage points for gender justice.

Key Session Conclusions

- **Foundational religious texts affirm gender equality**—barriers often come from cultural interpretations, not scripture.
- **Exclusionary practices are rooted in tradition**, not divine command.
- **Women's leadership in faith spaces must be acknowledged, legitimized, and supported.**
- Achieving gender justice requires **education, reinterpretation, and the courage to challenge harmful norms.**

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- Promote inclusive scriptural literacy**, ensuring communities engage sacred texts with equity lenses.
- Encourage and facilitate **interfaith dialogue** centered on **lived experiences** and shared values.
- Revisit leadership criteria** in faith institutions to remove structural barriers for women and marginalized groups.
- Amplify stories of women** in sacred texts—both historical and contemporary—through teaching, media, and worship.



Highlights

- Scriptural reinterpretation is essential for gender justice; many traditional readings are patriarchal overlays, not theological absolutes
- The concept of mutual submission in relationships was highlighted as central to both faiths
- A strong call to “carry your seat” into sacred spaces as a symbolic and literal action for asserting women’s spiritual presence

*“The ‘rib’ has been weaponized.
Reclaim equal creation.”*

— Prof. Azizat



Session B

Experiential Sharing: Personal Journeys of Women in Leadership

The session sought to inspire action by sharing stories of women who have attained positions that have been male dominated. To highlight examples of strategies adopted to achieve success as well as challenges faced.

Objectives

01

Raise Awareness:

Increase awareness and understanding of gender issues, including gender inequality, women’s empowerment, gender diversity, and gender-based violence, within religious communities and society at large.

02

Empower Women:

Empower women and girls by highlighting their leadership, contributions, and agency within religious contexts, and showcasing examples of women’s empowerment and activism.

03

Inspire Advocacy:

Inspire participants to become advocates, allies, and champions for gender equality and social justice within their faith communities and broader society.

Key Session Conclusions

- Women faith leaders are vital change agents, transforming harmful practices into platforms for justice and empowerment.
- Intergenerational and interfaith collaboration, including with male allies, is key to dismantling gender inequality.
- Faith communities can foster healing, resilience, and advocacy, especially in conflict and trauma-affected contexts.
- Sustainable empowerment must be rooted in community structures and collective action.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations



Center women's lived experiences in advocacy to shape policies and challenge harmful social and cultural norms.



Promote interfaith solidarity and engage male allies as essential strategies to achieve gender equality.



Integrate gender justice with peacebuilding, health, and environmental justice for greater impact and relevance.



Quotes from Leaders

"The big challenge was not outside, but from my heart. As a widow, I was branded, yet I chose to protect my children and my community. Working across religions, I saw that humanitarian and environmental justice are universal."

- Hening Palan (on resilience and interfaith solidarity)

"Even in Palestine, South Sudan, and Egypt where space is restricted, young women find small safe spaces and online platforms to organize. They are already leading our role is to strengthen their agency."

- Thabani Ncube (on young women leading change)



Session C

Getting Real with Faith – Open live session: Faith and Gender Identity

The session explored inclusive theologies and intersections of gender, race, class & other identities.

Objectives

Explore Intersectionality: Examine the intersections of gender with race, class, religion, and other identities to understand the diverse experiences and challenges faced by marginalized groups.

Promote Dialogue: Facilitate open and respectful dialogue among participants from different faith traditions to discuss and explore diverse perspectives on gender, sexuality, and identity.

Promote Inclusivity: Promote inclusivity, diversity, and non-discrimination based on gender identity, expression, and orientation within religious spaces and practices.

Raise awareness on the value and place of evidence and reference instruments in advocacy.

Key Session Conclusions

1

Faith and human dignity are inseparable participants emphasized that every person, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, is created by God and deserves respect, inclusion, and dignity. Dehumanization, even within religious contexts, was strongly rejected.

2

Story sharing builds trust and challenges stereotypes by sharing lived experiences, panellists demonstrated how narratives can dismantle misconceptions (e.g., reducing queer identities to sexuality) and foster transformative learning in faith spaces.

3

Religious spaces often lack safe representation for LGBTQIA+ people while some leaders continue to sexualize or demonize queer identities, the younger generation and progressive voices are pushing for inclusive and life-affirming interpretations of scripture.

4

Faith leadership must move beyond prosperity and conversion practices pastoral accompaniment, tender leadership, and life-affirming messages are essential for authentic religious guidance that reflects love, not exclusion.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- Uphold Human Dignity:** Every individual, regardless of gender or sexuality, must be treated with respect and allowed to live a life of dignity. Our advocacy should always prioritize the inherent worth of all people.
- Faith-based advocacy** should focus on the fundamental values of religion: love, care, and inclusion. It should challenge narratives of hate and exclusion by highlighting the essence of compassion in religious teachings.
- Acknowledge the Complexity of Human Identities:** recognize that human beings are multifaceted and should not be reduced to one aspect of their identity, such as gender or sexuality. Promoting a more inclusive and holistic understanding of people is essential.
- The Network should advocate for the creation of religious spaces that are inclusive, welcoming, and supportive of diverse identities. Safe spaces should be places where everyone's narrative is respected and affirmed, fostering a sense of belonging.

"No one is one thing"

A reminder that human beings are multi-faceted, and their identities should not be reduced to singular aspects, especially in the context of faith-based work.

"Safe spaces are spiritual spaces"

A call for religious spaces to become affirming, nurturing environments where people can live their truth without fear of judgment or exclusion.



Session D

Transforming Masculinities in Faith-Based Contexts

The session explored how to leverage positive masculinity to accelerate the achievement of gender justice.

Objectives

01

Raise Awareness:

Increase awareness and understanding of gender issues, including gender inequality, women's empowerment, gender diversity, and gender-based violence, within religious communities and society at large.

02

Build Partnerships:

Foster partnerships and collaborations between faith-based organizations, cultural and religious leaders, men and boys to collectively work towards gender justice, equality, and social change.

Key Session Conclusions

- Engaging men and boys within faith communities and broader society is essential to achieving gender justice.
- There is a need for creative and multi-faceted approaches when addressing masculinities in faith-based settings.
- Misinterpretation of sacred texts has historically reinforced patriarchy and marginalized women.
- Numerous positive male engagement initiatives now exist, demonstrating the value of inclusive and transformative approaches (several of which were highlighted during the panel).

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- Fathers matter.
- The boys watching today will be the men tomorrow
- Acknowledge that gender-based violence is a sin
- Reinterpret sacred texts for positive male engagement.





Session E

Faith Leaders as Advocates for Gender Justice

The session sought to highlight how to effectively engage faith leaders in gender and health programming. - Faith leader voices on a faith engagement toolkit for advocacy and programming.

Objectives

Inspire Advocacy: Encourage participants to become advocates, allies, and champions for gender equality and social justice within their faith communities and broader society.

Promote Dialogue: Facilitate open and respectful dialogue among participants from different faith traditions to discuss and explore diverse perspectives on gender, sexuality, and identity.



Build Partnerships: Exchange how to foster partnerships and collaborations between faith-based organizations, NGOs, activists, and community groups to collectively work towards gender justice, equality, and social change.

Raise awareness on the value and place of evidence and reference instruments in advocacy.

Key Session Conclusions

-

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

a.



Session F

GENZ'S Voice: Meaningful engagement of young people at decision-making tables

The session sought to highlight how to effectively engage faith leaders in gender and health programming. - Faith leader voices on a faith engagement toolkit for advocacy and programming.

Objectives

- **Highlight Youth Perspectives** - Share personal stories and experiences from young leaders about their involvement in decision-making processes.
- **Identify Barriers** - Discuss the challenges young people face in accessing decision-making tables, including systemic barriers and societal perceptions.
- **Explore Best Practices** - Showcase successful initiatives and models of youth engagement that can be replicated in various contexts.
- Collaboratively identify actionable strategies and recommendations to enhance youth participation in decision-making.

Key Session Conclusions

1	2
3	4

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

a.



Session G

The evolving structures of Family and Marriage - The Faith perspective

This topic reflected the complexities and evolving nature of marriage and family structures in contemporary society. Addressing these issues can foster deeper understanding and dialogue among diverse communities, particularly in the context of interfaith and intercultural discussions.

Objectives

01

Raise Awareness:

Increase awareness and understanding of gender issues, including gender inequality, women's empowerment, gender diversity, and gender-based violence, within religious communities and society at large.

02

Build Partnerships:

Foster partnerships and collaborations between faith-based organizations, NGOs, activists, and community groups to collectively work towards gender justice, equality, and social change.

03

Inspiring theological text:

Exploring theological texts which are against GBV.

Key Session Conclusions

- Evolving family structures including diverse family forms, shifting gender roles, and economic pressures are reshaping how marriage and family are lived and understood.
- Family and marriage remain central institutions across faith traditions, valued for their role in providing dignity, stability, and responsibility.
- Gender roles are transforming, yet inequalities persist: women increasingly act as breadwinners while fathers are expected to be emotionally engaged, but unpaid labor and cultural expectations continue to reinforce imbalances.
- Progressive faith approaches are emerging organizations such as Aisyiyah are promoting Islamic progressive values to advance gender equality, challenge unjust traditions, and align faith practices with modern realities.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- a. Reinterpret traditions through lenses of compassion, justice, and inclusivity, while maintaining respect for cultural and religious contexts.
- b. Promote marriage and family as institutions rooted in dignity, love, and shared responsibility, responsive to emerging social and economic challenges.
- c. Advocate for gender equality within families, highlighting shared parenting, equitable decision-making, and leadership opportunities for women.
- d. Link family stability to well-being, emphasizing the importance of economic equity and mental health support as faith-based advocacy priorities.

Highlights

The “Aisyiyah Vision” grounded in Islamic progressive values illustrates how faith can be a driving force for gender-equitable change from within religious frameworks.

“The imbalance in decision-making and power affects not only women’s autonomy but also the well-being of children and the stability of families.”

- a powerful reminder of how gender inequality undermines family health.

The observation that adolescent cohabitation in Indonesia is often driven by economic necessity reframes the issue from a moral or religious failing to a socio-economic challenge requiring practical, compassionate solutions.

Track Sessions

FAMILY HEALTH & WELLBEING

(SRHR)

Session A **Understanding Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights - Context and Trends**

The session gave an overview on understanding SRHR exploring new knowledge, current updates, best practices, success stories, and innovative approaches from different religious individuals, communities and organizations that have effectively promoted SRHR, gender equality, and reproductive justice within their contexts.

Objectives

01

Promote Understanding:

Enhance participants' understanding of the concept of SRHR, including from faith angles. Reflections will include the principles, challenges, and importance of upholding SRHR for individuals and communities.

02

Empower Advocacy:

Empower participants to become advocates for SRHR within their religious communities by equipping them with knowledge, tools, and strategies to engage in meaningful conversations, challenge stigma, and promote rights-based approaches to sexual and reproductive health.

03

Facilitate Dialogue:

Provide a platform for open and respectful dialogue among participants from different faith traditions to share perspectives, beliefs, and experiences related to sexuality, reproduction, and health within the context of their religious teachings.

Key Session Conclusions

- **Critical Need for Education:** There is a significant gap in sexual and reproductive health education, particularly in conservative communities, leading to high rates of unintended pregnancies and health complications.
- **Role of Faith Communities:** Engaging faith leaders is crucial for promoting SRHR, as they can influence attitudes and beliefs within their communities.
- **Barriers to Access:** Cultural norms, stigma, and lack of access to information and services hinder individuals, especially young people and women, from making informed decisions about their sexual health.
- **Importance of Youth Engagement:** Involving youth in discussions and decision-making processes regarding their health is essential for effective advocacy and change.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- Promote Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE):** Advocate for age-appropriate and culturally respectful CSE to empower youth with knowledge of their health and rights.
- Engage Men and Boys:** Foster inclusive dialogue by involving men and boys as allies in promoting gender equality and SRHR within communities.
- Challenge Stigma:** Launch awareness campaigns to normalize discussions around sexual and reproductive health, especially in conservative and religious settings.
- Support Policy Advocacy:** Mobilize communities to advocate for inclusive, rights-based SRHR policies that ensure access for all, especially marginalized groups.

Speakers shared Innovative practices and successful strategies for promoting SRHR:

◆ **Community Dialogues & Safe Spaces**

Creating safe, inclusive forums for open discussion across generations and faiths, involving religious leaders and youth.

◆ **Behavior Change Facilitators**

Training local leaders and peer educators to shift attitudes and promote SRHR awareness at the grassroots level.

◆ **Cross-Sectoral Collaboration**

Bridging health, education, finance, and faith sectors to create holistic SRHR programs tailored to community needs.

◆ **Technology & Innovation**

Distributing self-testing kits and using mobile platforms to provide discreet, accessible SRHR services and education.

◆ **Policy Advocacy & Localization**

Engaging communities in local policy development and making information available in local languages to increase accessibility.

◆ **Addressing Cultural Barriers**

Involving religious leaders in educational campaigns to demystify SRHR and reduce stigma.



"Faith can be a powerful ally in the fight for reproductive justice."

- Remmy Shawa



"Understanding our bodies is not just a right; it's a pathway to empowerment."

- Hope Dunira

Highlights and Points of Attention

Innovative Approaches: Panelists shared successful strategies and innovative practices for promoting SRHR within their communities. For instance:



1. Community Dialogues

- **Safe Spaces:** Creating safe environments for open discussions about sexual and reproductive health, involving various community members, including religious leaders.
- **Youth Engagement:** Actively involving young people in these dialogues to ensure their voices and concerns are heard.



2. Behavior Change Facilitators

- **Training Programs:** Training individuals within communities to act as behavior change facilitators who can educate others about SRHR and promote positive health behaviors.
- **Peer Education:** Utilizing peer educators to disseminate information in relatable and accessible ways.



3. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration

- **Partnerships:** Collaborating with non-health sectors (like education, finance, and community development) to integrate SRHR into broader community initiatives.
- **Multi-Disciplinary Approaches:** Engaging various stakeholders, including NGOs, government agencies, and community leaders, to create comprehensive strategies for SRHR.



4. Innovative Use of Technology

- **Self-Testing Kits:** Distributing HIV self-testing kits and other health resources to empower individuals to take charge of their health.
- **Digital Platforms:** Utilizing mobile apps and social media to provide information, resources, and support for SRHR.



5. Policy Advocacy

- **Engaging Policymakers:** Involving community members in advocacy efforts to influence policy changes that support SRHR, such as regulations that protect the rights of marginalized groups.
- **Information Dissemination:** Ensuring that SRHR information is available in local languages and formats that are accessible to all community members.



6. Addressing Stigma and Cultural Barriers

- **Community Education:** Conducting workshops and seminars to challenge misconceptions and stigma surrounding sexual and reproductive health issues.
- **Involvement of Religious Leaders:** Engaging faith leaders to help shift cultural norms and promote acceptance of SRHR discussions.

These strategies reflect a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges faced in promoting SRHR, emphasizing community involvement, education, and collaboration across various sectors.

Session B

Transforming Norms: Faith leaders' interventions transforming norms affecting uptake of SRH services and information in communities

This session aimed to give participants working on norms transformation on SRHR with Faith leader interventions lessons, tools and a space to share learnings on progress of their work in various contexts.

Objectives

- Share learnings on norms transformation initiatives that work
- Share tools and methodologies for measuring norm changes
- Faith and culture interaction in shifting norms affecting ASRH
- The future of norms transformation for SRHR

Key Session Conclusions



Scientific Process:

Transforming norms is a scientific process that requires sequential process for identification, prioritization and identification. A scientific change measuring process and time.



Role of Faith and cultural Communities:

Centring faith and cultural leaders is crucial transforming norms around SRHR, as they can influence attitudes and beliefs within their communities



Community Centred Approaches:

Involving community members systematically at all levels of norms transformation programs.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- Establish a **structured sequencing process** for co-creating and prioritizing social norms change interventions.
- Build capacity** for facilitators on social listening and community engagement techniques.
- Utilize **inclusive, participatory facilitation** tools for identifying and prioritizing norms in collaboration with communities.
- Train teams to **document not only explicit statements** but also unspoken cues, emotions, and silences that indicate underlying beliefs.
- Co-develop culturally acceptable terminologies** with participants to reduce resistance and enhance ownership.
- Allocate **adequate time** for community dialogue and reflection throughout the change process.
- Establish **feedback loops** that allow participants to review, validate, and refine findings collectively.
- Integrate **safeguards against power imbalances** by using moderated breakout groups to protect vulnerable populations.

📄 Highlights, points of attention and points of controversy

- Faith norms are influenced by multiple factors - including religion, culture, and tradition - and are often enforced through systems of social rewards (praise) and punishments (shame or exclusion).
- Social norms evolve through education, dialogue, activism, advocacy, socioeconomic changes, and shifting generational attitudes.
- Cultural sensitivity is central to successful SRHR interventions; without it, programs risk perpetuating stigma, miscommunication, and resistance.

“Norms programmes developed in board rooms which does not resonate with the people’s needs and lived realities will never work.”

- Lennox Mwarabaya – Rabai Cultural Village.

Faith norms are shaped by many factors including: culture, religion and tradition. Social norms happen in forms of cultural and gender norms. In other communities, norms are enforced through rewards like praise or punishments like shame, or exclusion. Social norms change through new ideas, education, community dialogue, activism, advocacy, social economic shifts and shifting attitudes.

We measure change:

- To understand behavioral drivers.
- To track progress and outcomes.
- To inform decision-making.
- To strengthen accountability and learning.
- To reduce inequality and stigma.



Ethical and contextual considerations when measuring social norms change

Positionality and reflexivity:

Who is measuring, and how does their identity shape what is observed?

Cultural sensitivity:

Respect local beliefs and ensure interventions do not harm.

Power and voice:

Whose social norms are being measured? Are marginalized voices included?

Do no harm principle:

Prioritize the safety and dignity of all participants.

The “Exhibition Market” was a dynamic session designed to serve as a collaborative platform where stakeholders in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) will come together to share and explore innovative ideas, practices, and solutions. The session aimed to drive progress in SRHR by harnessing collective knowledge, creativity, and collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

Objectives

01

Showcase Innovations:

Present a diverse range of innovative ideas and solutions related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

03

Encourage Knowledge Sharing:

Promote the exchange of best practices and lessons learned among participants to improve SRHR strategies and interventions.

02

Facilitate Networking:

Create opportunities for participants to network and collaborate.

04

Identify Gaps and Opportunities:

Engage participants in discussions to identify existing gaps in SRHR services and explore potential solutions to address these challenges.

Key Session Conclusions

- Menopause and impotence were identified as underlying causes of domestic violence in (Country to be confirmed).
- An initiative providing 60:40 scholarship opportunities for girls and boys respectively, supported by alumni networks, was highlighted as a model for gender equity in education.
- A medical camp specifically supporting FGM survivors was noted for helping women regain confidence and dignity.
- The importance of integrating SRHR as a cross-cutting issue in all programmatic interventions was emphasized.
- Some tertiary institutions are reviving SRHR research agendas, encouraging students to undertake studies in this field.
- The Apostolic Church in Zimbabwe is openly discussing SRHR in congregations and creating safe spaces, setting a positive precedent for other faith communities.
- In contrast, for many faith institutions, SRHR remains a taboo subject, underlining the need to train individual faith leaders to cascade accurate information to their congregations.
- Within Islamic communities, HIV testing and counselling are being actively promoted.
- Imams are serving as Community Health Promoters (CHPs) to sensitize communities on SRHR issues.
- Another initiative engages boys and girls equally (50:50 ratio) in SRHR programs and safe spaces, fostering inclusivity and gender balance.

Highlighted Initiative: Muslim family planning counselling services

The organization employs a 'shift the power' approach- prioritizing community realities and local ownership over donor-driven frameworks. Rather than merely implementing donor requirements, they develop context-specific interventions and set their own key performance indicators (KPIs).

It was noted that many organizations face community resistance because they impose external ideas rather than co-creating solutions with local stakeholders.

Muhammad, a representative from the organization, underscored the importance of networking in advancing SRHR. He further emphasized the need to understand local contexts and journey with communities to achieve sustainable impact.

Emerging Theme: Communication for GBV Prevention

Discussions also highlighted the urgent need for improved communication between couples and between parents and children to accelerate the elimination of gender-based violence (GBV).

Key insights included:

1

Faith institutions, particularly churches, play a vital role in promoting open dialogue between men and women, parents, and children through community sensitization.

2

Parent-child communication is essential in enabling openness and providing age-appropriate sexuality education, which helps young people make informed decisions and seek support when needed.



Session D **SMART Advocacy in SRHR: Strategies for policy change**

This session explored innovative approaches to advocacy in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), emphasizing the role of digital platforms, faith voices, and collaborative efforts in shaping policy. The session featured four distinguished speakers who shared insights on current advocacy trends, the importance of faith leaders in policy formulation, and strategies to achieve family planning goals by 2030.

Objectives

01

Enhance Understanding of Digital Advocacy:

Equip participants with knowledge on utilizing digital platforms for effective advocacy in SRHR.

02

Analyze Current Advocacy Trends:

Provide insights into the evolving landscape of gender and SRHR advocacy, identifying key players and emerging strategies.

03

Highlight the importance of faith leaders:

in policy formulation and equip them with tools to advocate effectively for SRHR.

Key Session Conclusions



- **Innovations in SRHR are transforming access to information and services.**
For instance, Africa Renaissance is developing a policy observatory profiling policies across education, gender, and health sectors in various countries.
- **Organizations need clear and adaptable advocacy strategies.**
A defined strategy helps determine purpose, target audiences, and how to use digital media and SMART advocacy to simplify and communicate messages effectively. Strategies must evolve with the rapidly changing digital landscape.
- **Faith leaders are key influencers in SRHR advocacy.** With their reach, credibility, and political influence, they can translate complex policy language for communities, set agendas, shape public opinion, and hold governments accountable.
- **Youth engagement is essential.** Young people bring creativity, innovation, and technological expertise—including in artificial intelligence (AI)—which faith leaders can harness to amplify SRHR advocacy and communication.



Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- a. Strengthen faith leaders' advocacy capacity:** Encourage faith leaders to actively participate in policy platforms and networks, engage with policymakers, issue pastoral statements, speak confidently about SRHR, and offer community support services.
- b. Promote empowering faith-based narratives:** Faith leaders should amplify scriptural messages that uphold women's dignity, empowerment, and decision-making as part of broader SRHR advocacy.
- c. Leverage digital innovations for advocacy:** Faith leaders should take personal initiative to learn and use digital platforms - such as YouTube, Facebook, and WhatsApp - to expand their reach and engage communities more effectively.

Highlight/Quote

Youth inclusion in decision-making: Participants emphasized the need for genuine youth participation in advocacy processes.

"Kindly faith leaders, don't invite youths to platforms just to tick a box while ensuring they speak last. We want to be listened to. We have great ideas."

- Brenda Alwany

Session E

YEMAYA HEALTH: Effective Engagement of Faith Actors

How to effectively engage faith leaders in gender and health programming-Faith leader voices on a faith engagement toolkit that works.

Objectives

01

Share practical examples of how faith actors contribute to peacebuilding at community, national, and regional levels.

02

Examine key challenges faced by faith actors in promoting peace, including issues of religious intolerance, violent extremism, and human rights abuses.

03

Explore opportunities to enhance collaboration, resilience, and advocacy efforts by faith leaders in advancing inclusive and sustainable peace.

Session Overview

The session began with an introductory presentation by Dr. Nduku Kilonzo, YEMAYA CEO and Founder, who highlighted the importance of listening to faith leaders and learning from their lived experiences to inform and strengthen health policy and action in Kenya. She also outlined the relevance of the engagement toolkit as a bridge between the faith and health sectors.



Why Faith Leaders Matter in Health Policy



Trusted voices:

Faith leaders are deeply respected in their communities. They are often the first point of reference on sensitive topics such as health, family, sexuality, and general well-being.



Reach and influence:

Their wide networks and access to diverse congregations -including marginalized and rural populations - make them crucial partners for health advocacy and program delivery.



Shaping attitudes:

Through sermons, teachings, and dialogue, faith leaders can challenge stigma around issues such as HIV, SRHR, and mental health, fostering open discussion and healthier behaviors.

What “Listening and Learning” Looks Like

The session underscored that genuine engagement with faith leaders requires ongoing dialogue and mutual capacity building:

- **Dialogue:** Creating safe spaces and consultative forums where faith leaders can share insights on community barriers, needs, and cultural sensitivities.
- **Evidence + Lived Experience:** Merging health data with community insights to design policies that are both evidence-based and socially grounded.
- **Capacity Building:** Listening also involves empowering faith leaders with accurate health knowledge and tools so they can guide and educate their communities effectively.

How This Strengthens Health Policy & Action

1

Policy Relevance:

Policies informed by faith leaders reflect community realities, making them more practical and implementable.

2

Community Buy-in:

When faith leaders contribute to policy formation, resulting policies experience less resistance and greater acceptance at the grassroots level.

3

Advocacy Strength:

Faith leaders can use their moral authority to engage policymakers directly, amplifying community health priorities.

4

Sustainability:

Partnerships with faith actors foster ongoing support systems for health programs, extending their impact beyond project lifecycles.

Faith Leaders Engagement with the Toolkit

Each faith leader received a draft of the **Toolkit for Engaging Faith Leaders on Health in Kenya**, which formed the foundation for interactive discussion. Participants shared personal experiences where faith-based advocacy had influenced policy or led to positive community action.

Toolkit Content Overview

The draft toolkit includes:



Learnings from Faith Leaders

reflections and best practices from past engagement efforts.



Principles of Faith Engagement

core values and approaches proposed by faith leaders for effective collaboration.



Strategies for Effective Engagement

guidance on building sustainable partnerships between the health and faith sectors.



Health Messaging through Accepted Structures and Channels

practical tools for communicating health messages in faith-sensitive and culturally relevant ways.

Session F

Ethical and Religious Perspectives: Navigating the Complex Ethical and Religious (Cultural) Views on SRHR

The session explored the role of faith and interpretation of religious texts in promoting access to SRHR. It featured Faith leaders and scholars sharing perspectives on SRH, FP and health within their faith traditions, including progressive interpretations of sacred texts, Reflection on the intersection of religious teachings and SRHR advocacy.

Objectives

To explore how faith and cultural perspectives influence ethical decision-making and practices around Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

The session sought to unpack the moral, theological, and traditional foundations that shape community attitudes and behaviors related to adolescent sexuality, reproductive health, and gender norms.

Key Session Conclusions

- Faith and cultural leaders acknowledged that SRHR discussions remain sensitive and often considered taboo within their communities, though there is a growing openness to dialogue.
- Faith leaders are pivotal moral guides who, when well-informed, can become powerful advocates for adolescent health, dignity, and well-being.
- Integrating faith values such as love, stewardship, and dignity can help bridge traditional beliefs with evidence-based SRHR approaches.
- Partnerships between faith institutions, health actors, and community organizations are essential to dispel myths and ensure consistent, compassionate SRHR communication.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- a. Develop **faith-based SRHR resource kits and study materials** for use in congregations, schools, and community gatherings.
- b. Strengthen **capacity-building for faith leaders** to enable effective, compassionate communication on SRHR within theological frameworks.
- c. Promote **interfaith dialogues and collaborative learning platforms** to share innovations, best practices, and experiences in engaging faith communities on SRHR.
- d. Encourage **partnerships between faith actors and health providers** to improve referral pathways and enhance access to adolescent-friendly services.



Highlights

Conversations around SRHR continue to be viewed as morally and culturally sensitive, underscoring the importance of respectful and contextual engagement.

Cross-cultural exchanges revealed that religious interpretations are evolving to respond to the realities of young people's lives.

Example initiatives shared included sermons, radio programs, and youth mentorship integrating faith values with SRHR education.

Session G

Future directions for the Network: Interfaith collaboration for SRHR: Developing a unified voice for advocacy on SRHR

This topic focused on the importance of uniting diverse faith groups to advocate for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services through the different strategies that were addressed by the speakers. This initiative recognized that faith communities can play a pivotal role in shaping attitudes, policies, and practices surrounding SRHR. By developing a unified voice, these groups can address common challenges, promote understanding, and advocate for the rights of individuals to access necessary health services.

Objectives

01

Foster Understanding:

Enhance understanding of SRHR issues within different faith contexts and promote dialogue on how faith can support health rights.

03

Strengthen Networks:

to strengthen networks among faith leaders, young people and advocates to facilitate ongoing collaboration and support for SRHR initiatives.

02

Identify Common Ground:

Identify shared values and beliefs among various stakeholders' groups that can serve as a foundation for collaboration on SRHR advocacy.

04

Presentation of the Youth convention

statement and Establishment of a youth regional hub.

Key Session Conclusions

- **Building a unified interfaith coalition is essential.** The Faith to Action Network should foster collaboration among religious leaders and youth to influence policies and social norms around SRHR. Shared agendas grounded in justice, compassion, and inclusion - rather than theological differences - can amplify collective advocacy efforts.
- **Youth engagement must be institutionalized.** The network should create mechanisms for meaningful youth participation, such as intergenerational dialogues, safe discussion hubs, and structured feedback systems that allow young people to influence decision-making processes.
- **Solidarity and sustainability are key.** Faith institutions should allocate resources to support SRHR programmes and move beyond symbolic commitments by ensuring inclusive policies are implemented and monitored.
- **Faith-based advocacy should be values-driven.** Religious leaders are encouraged to use their moral authority to publicly champion gender equality and SRHR, grounding messages in universal values of compassion, dignity, and justice.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations



Strengthen Faith to Action Network as an interfaith coalition to address SRHR jointly:

- Promote collaboration between religious leaders and youth to influence policy and social attitudes toward SRHR.
- Develop shared interfaith advocacy agendas focused on justice, compassion, and inclusion.
- Foster solidarity to ensure advocates are supported when addressing sensitive or taboo topics.
- Encourage cross-sector collaboration between faith actors and activists, avoiding siloed approaches.



Create systems for meaningful youth participation in the networks:

- Organize intergenerational dialogues where youth and elders jointly address SRHR challenges and propose solutions.
- Establish safe hubs for dialogue on SRHR, particularly for sensitive topics such as GBV, sexual violence, and stigma.
- Develop clear feedback mechanisms that allow youth to share their insights directly with faith and community leaders.



Enable solidarity of networking:

- Encourage religious institutions to allocate financial and material resources to strengthen SRHR programs.
- Ensure faith organizations implement and monitor inclusive policies at every level, not just endorse them.
- Support religious leaders in publicly advocating for SRHR and gender equality, anchored in faith values of compassion, dignity, and justice.



“True youth participation should not be based on tokenism; but sharing power and making decisions together inside religious communities”

— Dolphine Kwamboka, World YWCA

“Faith is not a wall that divides us - it is a bridge that unites us to act together for justice and dignity.”

— Jeries Saeed, ELCJHL



“Silence protects oppression, but when girls speak out, they light the path to freedom for their communities.”

— Liza Florina Kibaara, Inua Mama Mjane

“Religious leaders are trusted, people listen to them. They have a responsibility to provide good and correct information. They must be true to their religious principles of humility, compassion, love, and understanding each other.”

— Beina Evaline, World YWCA



“Creating safe spaces begins with open hearts and brave conversations - where no story is too difficult to be heard, and no person is judged.”

— Peter Svensson, Act Church of Sweden

Track Sessions

PEACEFUL, JUST & INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Session A

Faith and coexistence: Re-reading texts to build peaceful coexistence

This session explored how sacred texts from the Bible, Quran, and other traditions can be re-interpreted to promote peace, tolerance, interfaith collaboration/partnership and human dignity.

Objectives

01

To re-emphasize sacred texts as tools for dialogue, peace, tolerance, and human dignity.

02

To understand how sacred texts support interfaith collaboration/partnership

Key Session Conclusions

The session emphasized that sacred texts, African wisdom, and shared human values are powerful tools to foster peaceful coexistence. Misinterpretation of religion and loss of cultural heritage remain key obstacles, but dialogue rooted in respect, moderation, and inclusivity can bridge divides.

Faith leaders must harness both scripture and indigenous proverbs to inspire interfaith collaboration and youth engagement in peacebuilding.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- a. **Promote Inclusive Interpretations of Sacred Texts:** Advocate interfaith initiatives that highlight moderation, shared values, and respect for diversity, countering extremist or exclusionary interpretations.
- b. **Revitalize African Proverbs for Peace Education:** Support the collection, translation, and creative use of African proverbs in schools, faith communities, and digital media to engage younger generations in peacebuilding.
- c. **Institutionalize Interfaith Education and Dialogue:** Encourage policies and curricula that integrate interfaith learning, mutual respect, and cultural heritage into education systems to reinforce peaceful coexistence across generations.

“Quote Here”

- Speaker



Session B

Words that heal faith leaders confronting structural violence

The session explored the role of faith actors in healing communities affected by violence and injustice. How faith actors' voices can serve as instruments of healing and justice.

Objectives

01

To highlight restorative discourses and concrete community commitments.

03

To examine the challenges faith actors face in peacebuilding, including poverty, harmful practices, and interfaith rivalries.

02

To share examples of alternative narratives used to promote healing and justice.

04

To identify opportunities for combating religious intolerance, extremism, and human rights abuses.

Key Session Conclusions

- **Faith actors as healers and moral authorities:** The session underscored that faith leaders occupy a unique moral space, enabling them to heal communities wounded by conflict and injustice. Their credibility allows them to mediate disputes, rebuild trust, and inspire hope where formal institutions often struggle.
- **Practical illustrations of impact:** Examples from Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Kenya demonstrated the power of faith leadership in uniting divided communities. From Nigerian clerics modelling vaccine acceptance during COVID-19, to Ethiopian dialogue initiatives reducing hate speech, and Kenyan clergy countering violent extremism, participants showed how faith can bridge divides.
- **Persistent challenges:** Ongoing barriers such as poverty, gender-based and structural violence, harmful cultural practices, poor governance, and interfaith rivalries continue to limit peacebuilding efforts.
- **Need for collective and prophetic leadership:** The session called for stronger interfaith collaboration and prophetic leadership—leaders who are courageous enough to confront corruption, injustice, and exclusion while centering peace on compassion, dignity, and equality.



Advocacy Messages Recommendations



Institutionalize the Role of Faith Leaders in Peacebuilding: Advocate for formal recognition and integration of faith leaders within national and local peace infrastructures extending their role beyond mediation to trauma healing, reconciliation, and justice.



Strengthen Faith-Based Responses to Gender-Based Violence (GBV):

Support campaigns where faith leaders openly condemn harmful practices such as breast ironing, domestic violence, and child marriage, while promoting gender justice and positive masculinities..



Promote Socio-Economic Empowerment as Peacebuilding: Link peace efforts with economic empowerment, especially for youth and women, to address structural inequalities that perpetuate conflict.



Foster Interfaith Collaboration and Prophetic Leadership: Strengthen interfaith alliances that prioritize unity and the common good. Encourage faith leaders to model prophetic courage by denouncing corruption, injustice, and human rights abuses.



Highlight/Quotes

Structural violence within faith institutions such as exclusion and unequal opportunities fuels marginalization and weakens peacebuilding. Faith, must remain prophetic, boldly speaking against corruption, GBV, political violence, and injustice.

“Faith leaders are moral architects in society. “During COVID-19, acceptance of vaccines grew when bishops and imams took them first — faith builds trust.”

- Rev Uzoakwu

“Pulpits go beyond structures they are also about our actions,””peace is lived as much as it is preached.”

- Mr. Jihad Keno

Session C **Mosques, temples, churches: safe spaces for conflict prevention**

This session explored how places of worship can serve key roles in peacebuilding amid emerging conflicts.

Objectives

01

To visualize community aspirations for sacred spaces.

02

Share examples of places of worship serving as safe sanctuaries for victims of conflict.

Key Session Conclusions

- **Sacred and traditional institutions as peace pillars:** Both traditional and faith-based institutions were recognized as vital anchors of community peace and justice. Their spiritual and moral authority offers trusted mechanisms for reconciliation and conflict resolution, especially where formal state systems are weak.
- **Core values of peacebuilding:** Despite contextual challenges, traditional values of love, dialogue, and restorative justice remain powerful tools for social cohesion and conflict prevention.
- **Adapting traditions to modern realities:** Faith and cultural leaders were urged to adapt ancient customs to contemporary challenges, ensuring they align with human rights principles and include the voices of youth and women.
- **Bridging faith and culture:** The session emphasized that cooperation between religious and traditional institutions can strengthen local peacebuilding frameworks and offer contextually grounded solutions to modern conflicts.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations



Strengthen Recognition of Sacred and Cultural Spaces:

Advocate for policies that formally recognize sacred forests, shrines, and places of worship as community-based peace infrastructures, integrated into local and national conflict prevention systems.



Promote Inclusive Leadership in Faith Spaces:

Support the active participation of women and youth in religious and traditional decision-making, ensuring their perspectives shape peace and justice agendas.



Bridge Tradition and Modern Challenges:

Promote interfaith and intercultural platforms that harmonize indigenous traditions with modern human rights standards, addressing persistent issues such as gender-based violence, land conflicts, and generational divides.



Session D

Connecting young people towards a culture of Peace

This session explored how young people use social platforms to promote peace and mobilize communities. The power of viral narratives and digital activism in peacebuilding.

Objectives

01

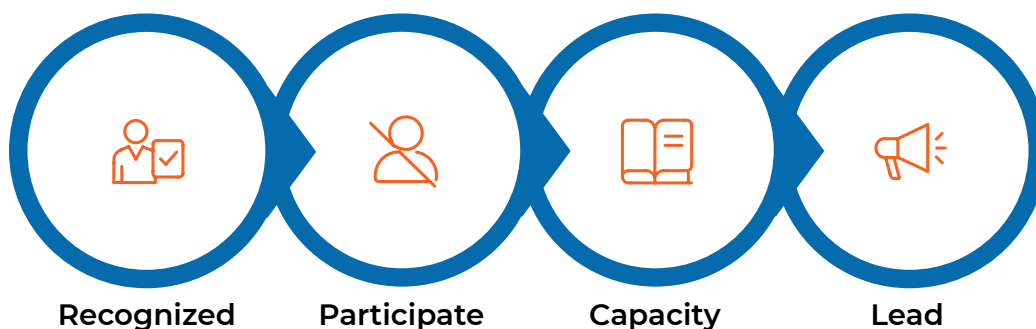
To celebrate digital innovation and amplify youth voices online.

02

To demonstrate the power of social media on young people and its impact on peace.

Key Session Conclusions

- **Young people are often overlooked** in social decision-making and peacebuilding efforts despite being key stakeholders in shaping community resilience.
- **Women and youth must be recognized as distinct social groups**, each facing unique forms of discrimination, requiring targeted interventions and representation.
- **Youth participation is essential** - young people must be involved as active agents in resolving community challenges rather than being seen merely as beneficiaries.
- **Faith institutions should empower youth**, assigning them roles of responsibility and transforming mosques, churches, and other religious spaces into centers of education, dialogue, and personal development.
- **Young people are prepared to push back against exclusion and assert their right** to participate if faith and political leaders continue to marginalize them from decision-making processes.



Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- a. **Promote youth as peacebuilders:** Recognize that young people are not sources of conflict but key levers for peace and social transformation.
- b. **Encourage allyship:** Men should act as allies in advancing women's empowerment, and adults should play the same role in supporting and mentoring youth.
- c. **Invest in capacity building:** Prioritize youth training, interfaith and cross-border learning exchanges, and partnerships to identify and leverage opportunities in peacebuilding and social change.
- d. **Facilitate youth-led advocacy:** Create platforms within the Faith to Action Network and partner organizations where young people can share experiences, challenges, and best practices to strengthen intergenerational collaboration.

Highlights

- Young people found a safe and open space to express themselves freely on issues that directly affect their lives.
- Youth participants emphasized that they seek leadership through merit, not sympathy, and are determined to take charge of their future.
- There was strong interest in developing a global interfaith platform for youth exchange and dialogue, to enhance connectivity and information sharing among young people across regions.
- The session underscored the transformative potential of social media in mobilizing young voices for peace and justice.

“Social media is not just for selfies but it’s a tool of transformation.”

- Paul Nondo



Session E **Evidence and Research**

This session sought to highlight the critical role of faith actors in strengthening peacebuilding processes and defending human rights.

Objectives

01

Share practical examples of how faith actors contribute to peacebuilding at community, national, and regional levels.

02

Examine key challenges faced by faith actors in promoting peace, including issues of religious intolerance, violent extremism, and human rights abuses.

03

Explore opportunities to enhance collaboration, resilience, and advocacy efforts by faith leaders in advancing inclusive and sustainable peace.

Key Session Conclusions



Faith leaders hold unique trust and influence in peacebuilding, but stronger accountability and inclusive frameworks are needed.



Bridging gaps in funding, secular governance, and interfaith collaboration is essential for sustainable peace.



Youth and women are crucial actors in peacebuilding, and their participation strengthens community resilience.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- a. Enhance Inclusivity in Peacebuilding:** Advocate for the systematic inclusion of women and youth in interfaith and peacebuilding initiatives to ensure their voices shape decisions.
- b. Strengthen Frameworks on Secularism and FoRB:** Call for clear, rights-based guidelines and accountability mechanisms to prevent misuse of secularism and guarantee freedom of religion or belief in education and governance.
- c. Resource and Protect Faith-Based Peace Actors:** Push for increased funding, evidence-based research, and protection of religious leaders who speak out against violence and extremism, recognizing them as critical peacebuilders.

“If we want to mobilize massive resources, we need evidences to back up the assertion that FBO organization are keys in the area of peace building.” ”

- Ezra Chitando

i Session F **Faith, Facts, and Algorithms: Navigating Religious Disinformation and Artificial Intelligence for Social Justice**

The session explored how youth activists and faith actors can collaborate to build inclusive peace campaigns. Uniting spirituality with movements and values-driven social change.

Objectives

01

To build negotiation, listening, and collaborative strategy skills.

02

To share how youth are drivers of peace.

Key Insights



Religious Disinformation:

Deliberately false or misleading information designed to manipulate communities; particularly dangerous when targeting women leaders.



AI: Risks and Opportunities:

Algorithms can amplify harmful narratives but also help monitor and counter disinformation; tools like TalkWalker and AI-generated avatars (Nala, Maman Malkia, Papa Baraka) improve efficiency and local relevance.



Campaign Experiences:

In Togo, interfaith campaigns reframed public discourse on child marriage; in Kenya, initiatives addressed adolescent sexuality and teenage pregnancy using podcasts, social media, and influencer partnerships.



Lessons Learned:

Social listening tools need adaptation for social justice; religious institutions often lack strategic social media guidance; African language support for AI tools is still limited but progressing.



Key Session Conclusions

- **Religious disinformation is a growing global risk** that erodes trust, fuels division, and undermines human rights.
- **Artificial intelligence offers both risks and opportunities;** ethically guided use can strengthen truth-telling and advocacy.
- **Faith actors play a unique role** in reshaping narratives, countering harmful content, and building communities of trust.
- **The Kenya and Togo campaigns demonstrate** that combining faith leadership with AI-powered communication is both feasible and impactful.

Advocacy Messages Recommendations

- a. Position faith leaders as trusted messengers to counter online disinformation with credible, compassionate voices.
- b. Emphasize interfaith collaboration to dismantle harmful narratives and promote shared values of peace and dignity.
- c. Invest in strengthening digital literacy and social media capacity among faith institutions and their members.

Session G **From the shadows to recognition: repositioning women as pillars of lasting peace**

This session sought to explore elevation of women to central positions in peacebuilding. Structural recognition of women as key decision-makers and ensuring their participation in every stage of the peace process.

Objectives

To learn and share about women participation and roles in peace building.

Side Meeting

Regional Meeting of Policy Makers West-Africa & East-Africa

The side meeting brought together policy makers from West and East Africa to reflect on the gap between the progressive normative frameworks in Africa—particularly the Maputo Protocol—and the persistent injustices affecting gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), access to safe abortion, LGBTQI+ rights, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Despite widespread ratification and domestication of the Protocol, implementation remains significantly constrained.

Key Barriers Identified (Religious Perspective)

Participants highlighted several religious and faith-based drivers that impede the realization of the rights enshrined in the Maputo Protocol:

- Doctrinal and theological resistance by religious institutions and communities
- Attitudes of religious leaders and their congregants contrary to the norms enshrined in the Maputo Protocol
- Religious practices of “othering” resulting in stigma and discrimination
- Strong anti-gender, anti-rights movements, whose strong financial backing enables to corrupt religious actors and policy makers

Solutions to overcome these barriers

Internal Advocacy:

To achieve change within religious institutions and communities

Conversations at all levels to persuade: leadership, congregational members, families, intergenerational communication

A long-time perspective, overcoming deep-seated beliefs cannot happen overnight. Comprehensive interpretation of religious texts, contrary to selective reading of texts

Champions:

These are role models for example establishing chaplains for specific groups (almost like special envoys or goodwill ambassadors)

These champions, like other Human Right defenders, need “Defend the Human Rights Defenders” programmes, to resist threats, backlash and stigma

External advocacy towards government decision-makers and policy makers:

These decision-makers often take decisions based on their beliefs. It is wrong to assume they only follow facts and figures.

Therefore, advocacy must also be faith based, for example, explaining a new SRHR law from a religious perspective, showing how it is supported by various religious beliefs and theology.

Take advantage of trans-national religious influences:

Such connections can help through solidarity.

Learning: religion is not uniform, groups may be at different stages in different countries: A religious community in one country can help in another country.

A better understanding of our adversaries:

We need to map the anti-gender and anti-rights movements so that we can better take over and shape the public agenda. The questions are: who are they? Where are they? What are their strategies? Who funds them?

Awards & Final Dinner





Convention Statements

Communique on Women's Rights and Gender Justice at the Interfaith Convention

We, the participants of Interfaith Convention in Machakos (near Nairobi), Kenya, from the 23rd to the 25th of September 2025, wish to reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the advancement of women's rights and justice. As people of faith representing diverse traditions, faith-based organisations, and faith-aligned civil society organisations from different parts of the world, we recognise the urgency of securing women's rights and gender justice in our own time.

During our engagements over three days, we established that:

- a. Faith communities continue to make significant progress in promoting women's rights and gender justice.
- b. Women, including young women, are taking up leadership roles within faith institutions and in the larger society.
- c. Misinterpretations of sacred texts and abuse of culture and tradition have resulted in the marginalisation of women in different contexts.
- d. Despite legislation and campaigns,
- e. gender-based violence, including new forms assisted by technology, remains widespread.
- e. Rigid gender ideologies promoted by religious and political extremists are generating a pushback against the advances that had been made in achieving women's rights.
- f. There is an urgent need for progressive forces to invest heavily in promoting women's rights and gender justice.

Over three days of robust, honest and fruitful discussions, we were empowered to learn that:

- A. When interpreted and applied creatively and critically, the sacred texts and teachings within faith communities are powerful mobilising forces for women's rights and gender justice.
- B. Throughout history and in different societies, women of different ages have served as leaders in the fields of religion and spirituality, business, politics, philanthropy, academia and others.
- C. Attempts to define gender in naïve terms contradict the fact that reality is more complex and human beings, fearfully and wonderfully made, cannot be placed in simple boxes.
- D. There is a need to embrace the impact of intersectionality and appreciate how variables such as race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, disability, and age impact women differently.
- E. We must invest in mentorship programmes that will support young women to continue taking up leadership positions within faith spaces and the larger society.

Cognisant of the aforementioned issues and seeking to contribute towards the achievement of women's rights, gender justice and sustainable development, we make the following call to duty bearers:

1. We call upon states to honour their commitments towards advancing women's rights and gender justice.
2. We challenge development partners to dedicate more resources towards women's rights and gender justice for sustainable development.
3. We encourage the different faith communities to collaborate in order to more effectively promote women's quest for health, well-being, dignity and security.
4. We call upon men and boys to uphold the values of Positive/Transformative Masculinities and partner with women and girls for the attainment of women's rights and gender justice.
5. We commit to supporting girls' and women's access to quality education at all levels, including in our own institutions, to enable human flourishing.

Communique on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights at the Interfaith Convention

We, the participants of the Interfaith Convention facilitated by Faith to Action Network in Machakos (near Nairobi), Kenya, from the 23rd to the 25th of September 2025, wish to reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the advancement of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). As people of faith representing diverse traditions, faith-based organisations, and faith-aligned civil society organisations from different parts of the world, we recognise the urgency of securing SRHR for all, including adolescents and women.

During our engagements over three days, we established that:

- a. Faith communities are making strategic contributions to the achievement of SRHR, including the delivery of services to adolescents, women, girls and marginalised groups, as well as providing networks of support and care.
- b. Faith communities are delivering effective age-appropriate sexuality education in their worship settings and educational facilities.
- c. The sacred texts and teachings of our various faith traditions uphold the dignity of all people.
- d. Due to some theological and doctrinal positions, and traditional moral frameworks, some faith leaders have opposed some aspects of SRHR.
- e. There is an urgent need for ongoing dialogue/conversations of hope to mobilise faith and traditional leaders to promote health, healing and well-being in matters of sexuality and reproduction.

Over three days of robust, honest and fruitful discussions, we were empowered to learn that:

- A. Sexual and reproductive health is integral to overall human flourishing and cannot be separated from broader considerations of human dignity, relationships, and community wellbeing.
- B. Governments and other stakeholders are recognising the critical role of SRHR to the attainment of sustainable development.
- C. Faith communities in diverse settings are ensuring access to healthcare services that promote sexual and reproductive wellbeing and addressing systemic inequalities that limit such access.
- D. There is a need to embrace the concept of intersectionality and appreciate how variables such as race, gender, class, sexuality, disability, and affect access to SRHR.
- E. Families and communities are striving to fulfil their responsibilities to support, educate, and care for their members in the quest for human flourishing.

Cognisant of the aforementioned issues and seeking to contribute towards the achievement of women's rights, gender justice and sustainable development, we make the following call to duty bearers:

1. We call upon states to honour their commitments towards advancing women's rights and gender justice.
2. We challenge development partners to dedicate more resources towards women's rights and gender justice for sustainable development.
3. We encourage the different faith communities to collaborate in order to more effectively promote women's quest for health, well-being, dignity and security.
4. We call upon men and boys to uphold the values of Positive/Transformative Masculinities and partner with women and girls for the attainment of women's rights and gender justice.
5. We commit to supporting girls' and women's access to quality education at all levels, including in our own institutions, to enable human flourishing.

Communique on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Communities at the Interfaith Convention

We, the participants representing diverse faith traditions, faith-based organisations, institutions and in our capacity as people of faith (young and established in age) from different parts of the world, gathered in Machakos (near Nairobi), Kenya, from the 23rd to the 25th of September 2025. We reflected on the state of our world today and were alarmed by the increasing deployment of resources into cultures of non-dialogue, war, violence and insecurity.

During our deliberations over three days, we observed that:

- a. Global peace and security is under threat due to ongoing wars and preparations for war in different parts of the world.
- b. There is a tragic and large-scale killing of human beings, including women and children, as well as total disregard for human rights, in violent conflicts such as those in the Sudan, Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Gaza.
- c. Resource-based conflicts, such as those in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, continue to be devastating, posing a serious threat to national, regional, continental and global sustainable development.
- d. The brazen displays of military strength by some countries are likely to stampede others to redirect resources towards increasing military spending at the expense of human development.
- e. The climate emergency, alongside racism, gender discrimination, xenophobia, economic inequality and other forms and expressions of inequality threaten peace, integration and cohesion in our world today.

Over three days of robust, honest and fruitful discussions, we were empowered to learn that:

- A. Faith actors from diverse faith traditions continue to play a critical role in promoting global peace and security.
- B. Women and youth from faith communities are strategic actors in deepening cultures of peace in their communities and beyond.
- C. Although some conflict entrepreneurs in different parts of the world deploy religious rhetoric to defend their politico-ideological causes, sacred texts and teachings remain powerful resources for peace and security.
- D. Interfaith dialogue remains an effective means to foster mutual understanding, bridge differences, and cultivate relationships of trust and cooperation across religious traditions.
- E. Religious, cultural, gender and other forms of diversity are a source of strength and collective wisdom. Embracing this diversity, we affirm our unity in the shared values of compassion, respect, and love for all humanity.

We, as people of diverse faith traditions gathered here in Machakos, Kenya, therefore make the following calls to states, faith-based and institutions, development partners and states:

1. We call upon states to prioritize dialogue above war in situations of conflict and disagreements.
2. We challenge (invite?) development partners to invest heavily in religious peacebuilding for the attainment of global peace and security.
3. We encourage faith-based organisations to collaborate in actively promoting peace, non-violence, and conflict transformation through religious teachings, practices, and community engagement efforts.
4. We call for the meaningful and active involvement of women and youth in all peacebuilding initiatives globally, including in religious peacebuilding.

United in faith, driven by a compelling commitment to just peace and environmental justice, we invoke the spirit of unity, compassion, and peace that has permeated our discussions to continue to inspire and guide our collective efforts for a better future, for all creation.

Communique on Youth Voices at the Interfaith Convention

We the Faith to Action Network Youth Voices convened at the 4th Interfaith Youth PreConvention #F2ANYV2025. We declare that we are a collective of youthful activators, youth mobilisers and faith leaders grounded in values and faith to pursue justice and well-being through our work, witness and service.

Our values and faith based grounding: support, inclusivity, dignity, empathy and accountability

We will work, witness and serve in an intersectional community approach for the well-being of children, youth, women, government officials, faith actors and faith leaders, cultural and tribal leaders, education. Health services, safety and security actors, and institutions.

We want to see:

- 1. Youth making decisions and leading for justice with determination**
- 2. Accountable government in terms of policy and frameworks for corrective change**
- 3. The power of women, children and persons with disabilities to secure a more equitable and safe society**
- 4. An informed community that champions for its needs**
- 5. Transformed masculinity as we seek the well-being of men and fathers for the well-being of children, women and community**
- 6. Faith into action and justice into reality addressing current and emerging social injustices in our here and now - freedom will come for africa, palestine and our world**
- 7. An interfaith youth network for youth and youth professionals/advocates to engage annually for the well-being of children, youth, women, and other marginalised communities**