

Movement Building – how members engage & influence change



Fifteen years ago, we asked a simple but radical question: what becomes possible when faith communities stop working in silos and start moving together? Today, with 148 member institutions spanning Baha'i, Buddhist, Confucian, Hindu, Christian, African Traditional, and Muslim traditions in 38 countries, we have our answer. The answer is a movement.

This May edition we spotlight stories that demonstrate how members have continued to engage and influence change at every level of society. We highlight moments of policy influence, continental engagement, national collaboration, peacebuilding and pluralism, programme innovation, interfaith climate action, and theology in service — all reflecting the many ways members are shaping communities and

strengthening collective action across the network.

From grassroots mobilization and interfaith advocacy to regional policy engagement and cross-border collaboration, these features illustrate how the network has evolved into a vibrant movement grounded in solidarity, shared learning and community leadership. Together, they show how members continue to organize, convene, advocate and influence systems and social norms within their communities and beyond.

At the heart of each story is a common thread: movement building happens when faith actors work collectively across traditions, generations and geographies to advance justice, wellbeing, peace and human dignity.

Member Story

63 Imams, One Commitment: Changing the Family Planning Conversation in Kenya

In 2015, Faith to Action Network partnered with SUPKEM, Al-Azhar University experts and county governments in Kilifi, Lamu and Mombasa to launch a landmark advocacy caravan focused on child spacing, early marriage, female genital cutting and safe motherhood.

The initiative mobilized communities through colorful processions involving motorcycles, tuk-tuks and even donkeys through the streets of Mombasa, Malindi and Lamu, sparking dialogue and awareness around family health issues.



Learning caravan on child spacing in the Islamic context, Mombasa, 2015

Most significantly, the initiative culminated in **63 imams formally adopting a seven-point commitment supporting child spacing.**

The campaign remains one of the network's strongest examples of:

- faith-led advocacy
- grassroots mobilization
- government partnership
- movement building rooted in community trust



Learning caravan: Al Azhar scholars advising Kenyan women on child spacing, 2015

Policy Influence

From Prayer to Parliament: Faith Leaders Drive the EAC Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill

Faith to Action Network played a key role in positioning faith actors within advocacy efforts supporting the East African Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill through the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).

Working alongside the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), the network co-created evidence-based advocacy materials demonstrating interfaith support for SRHR.

In January 2020, the network screened the video to the EALA's Committee on General Purposes.

The impact was immediate: **EALA members renewed their commitment to advance the bill, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) agreed to finance the re-drafting process.** At a pre-conference in Kigali in 2018, faith leaders from diverse traditions had already gathered to exchange advocacy tools and skills — the groundwork for this legislative win.

The lesson for the movement: when faith actors show up with evidence, with unity across traditions, and moral clarity moral, decision-makers listen.

Program Spotlight

Cross-Border Advocacy Led by Young Women and Faith Leaders



Across **Egypt, Kenya, Palestine** and **South Sudan**, a new generation of young women leaders are reshaping conversations around gender justice, women's rights and community transformation.

Through the **Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy and Accountability (YW4A) programme**, Faith to Action Network and partners have supported 17,540 young women and 27 women's rights and faith-based organizations to strengthen advocacy, leadership and accountability.

Faith to Action Network leads efforts focused on mobilizing faith leaders to actively challenge gender-based violence and discriminatory social norms within communities.

From mosques in Cairo to churches in Nairobi and grassroots advocacy spaces in Palestine, trained faith champions are creating safe spaces for dialogue, accountability and women's empowerment while promoting positive masculinities and community-led change.

By the programme's close in 2025, YW4A aimed to transform social norms within 22 faith-based organizations and influence the adoption or amendment of 18 laws and policies.

YW4A has become one of the network's strongest examples of cross-regional movement building — connecting young women, faith actors and advocacy organizations across Africa and Asia around a shared vision for gender justice and women's rights.

The programme demonstrates how faith-informed leadership, when rooted in solidarity and collective action, can drive both community transformation and policy influence

Interfaith Climate Action

Youth, Faith and Climate Action United

Through the JISRA programme in Indonesia, Faith to Action Network partnered with Muhammadiyah to implement Eco Bhinneka **an interfaith environmental initiative promoting harmony through collective climate action.**

Operating across Pontianak, Ternate, Surakarta and Banyuwangi, the programme brought together youth, women and faith leaders from diverse religious backgrounds to strengthen interfaith cooperation in addressing the climate crisis.

In July 2024, religious leaders, women, youth and persons with disabilities participated in an interfaith beach clean-up and distributed tree seedlings to mosques, temples and churches in Ternate as a symbol of collective environmental responsibility.

The initiative also gained international recognition when Eco Bhinneka Programme Director Hening Parlan was invited to the Indonesia Influential Program in the Netherlands in recognition of Muhammadiyah's work in inter-religious harmony through environmental action.

Movement Building Impact

Eco Bhinneka demonstrates how movement building can extend beyond health and advocacy into climate justice and environmental stewardship. By bringing together communities across religious traditions around a shared cause, the programme strengthens interfaith solidarity, youth leadership and collective responsibility for sustainable futures.



Continental Engagement

Mobilizing Collective Action for Sustainable Development

In April 2025, Faith to Action Network members joined faith leaders and stakeholders from across the continent at the **Faith-Based Organizations Pre-Event ahead of the 11th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development** in Kampala.

The gathering highlighted the **role of faith institutions not only as spiritual anchors, but also as transformative agents advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063.**

Faith leaders emphasized values such as mercy, justice, humility and integrity as essential to building resilient societies while calling for stronger action against corruption, inequality and discrimination.

The meeting also produced commitments to strengthen collaboration, eliminate duplication of efforts and amplify grassroots initiatives already creating impact within communities.

Movement Building Impact

The convening reinforced the growing recognition of faith actors as key development partners across the continent. It also strengthened continental solidarity among faith institutions while positioning the movement as an active contributor to Africa's long-term development agenda.

Peacebuilding & Pluralism

Faith Leadership Strengthening Trust and Peace

In Burundi, where ethnic polarization remains a significant concern, Faith to Action Network member Conseil Inter-Confessionnel du Burundi (CICB) implemented interfaith peacebuilding initiatives across four provinces.

A network-supported case study found that religious leaders play a critical role in promoting social cohesion because they are often trusted by communities that may distrust state institutions.

Movement Building Impact

The initiative demonstrated how faith leaders can serve as bridge-builders and trusted conveners within fragile contexts. By strengthening interfaith cooperation and community trust, the programme contributed to building locally rooted peace infrastructures that support long-term social cohesion.

Women of Faith Leading Reconciliation Efforts

Faith to Action Network members Evangelical Alliance of South Sudan (EASS) and Pan-African Christian Women Alliance (PACWA) implemented interfaith peacebuilding initiatives across Juba, Yei and Bor.

The initiatives explored women's leadership in peacebuilding, inter-community trust and the sustainability of faith-brokered peace efforts.

Movement Building Impact

The programme strengthened women's leadership within peacebuilding spaces while demonstrating the important role faith actors can play in reconciliation and trust-building. It also reinforced the network's commitment to inclusive movement building that centers women as active peace actors and community leaders.

National Collaboration

Institutionalizing Faith-Government Partnership



Representatives from Inter-Religious Council of Kenya, Organization of Instituted Churches, National Council of Churches of Kenya, Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims, County Government of Kilifi, County Government of Migori, Ministry of Health Kenya, State Department of Gender and Affirmative Action Kenya and Faith to Action Network at the formalization of the Interfaith Declaration on Family Health & Well Being in Nairobi, Kenya 23rd April 2026

Faith to Action Network and government stakeholders launched Kenya's Interfaith National Hub on Family Health and Wellbeing in a landmark effort to strengthen coordinated action around adolescent health, maternal wellbeing and community engagement.

The initiative brought together more than 20 faith bodies alongside senior government representatives, reflecting growing recognition of faith leaders as essential partners within national health systems.

Baseline findings presented during the launch highlighted urgent gaps in adolescent SRHR

knowledge among young people in Kilifi and Migori counties, underscoring the need for community-centered interventions.

Movement Building Impact

The Hub represents a major step toward institutionalizing faith-led collaboration within public health systems. It strengthened partnerships between government and faith actors while creating a sustainable national platform for collective advocacy, coordination and community engagement.

Theology in Service

Creating Brave Spaces for Dialogue and Transformation

In Johannesburg, theologians and faith leaders from African Traditional Religions, the Baha'i Faith, Christianity and Islam gathered to engage on sexual and reproductive health rights, teenage pregnancy and sexual and gender-based violence.

Participants reflected on policy briefs while exploring how theology, spirituality and indigenous knowledge systems can contribute to healthier communities and positive social transformation.

Movement Building Impact

The convening reflected the network's ability to bridge faith traditions and create courageous spaces for dialogue around sensitive issues. By bringing diverse religious voices together around shared concerns, the initiative strengthened interfaith solidarity and collective advocacy for gender justice and community wellbeing.

Scan the QR code or use the link below to contribute your voice



F2AN 15th Anniversary Contribution-Form

Selected responses will be featured in upcoming anniversary stories.