

Interfaith Declaration to Improve Family Health and Well-Being

We, leaders of religious institutions and faith based organizations (FBO), believe that health is a universal value held by all faiths and a universal right for human beings.

Our faith traditions, spiritual values and commitment to social justice lead us to believe passionately that families should not suffer needlessly because they lack access to health services.

We acknowledge the evidence that the health benefits of access to education and services, and thereby averting unintended pregnancies, can be substantial. Each year lack of family planning services and education in developing countries results in an estimated 600,000 newborn deaths; 150,000 maternal deaths from abortion and other pregnancy-related causes; and at least 340,000 children lose their mother.

We recognize the importance of access to information about and services to enable families to plan the timing and spacing of their pregnancies consistent with their faith for family well-being, for achievement of country health targets and to support achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

We respect the choice of families based on their own faith and needs and know that stronger, healthier and thriving families and communities result when couples jointly plan their families.

In this Declaration, we commit to leveraging our networks to support family health by providing education and services that enable families to plan the timing and spacing of their pregnancies consistent with their faith. We call on others to support this initiative to influence government and donor policies and funding.

Prepared in Nairobi, Kenya, 29 June 2011 by:

African Christian Health Associations Platform
African Council of Religious Leaders — Religions for Peace (ACRL—RfP)
Centre for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilizations (CDCC), Jakarta, Indonesia
Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH), USA
Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK)
Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI)
Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA), Kenya
Hindu Dharma Council of Indonesia
International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research, Al-Azhar University
Islamic Relief Worldwide, UK
Masjid Council, Bangladesh
Missionaries of Jesus, Philippines
Muhammadiyah, Indonesia
Muslim Family Counselling Services, Ghana
Muslimat Nahdlatul Ulama (NU)
New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good, USA
Northmead Assembly of God Church – Zambia
Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), Kenya
WALUBI (Indonesian Buddhist Association)

Supporters:

Word Faiths Development Dialogue, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs, USA
DSW and DSW Kenya
Innovative Development Expertise & Advisory Services, USA
Henry Mosley, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus, Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
United States Agency for International Development, Office of Population and Reproductive Health

Endorsed by:

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<<additional names here, upon confirmation>>

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