

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

The role of faith communities and faith groups' promising practices

Thursday 4 February 2021

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

Bangkok

Virtual – UNAIDS Platform (Zoom) + YouTube

Interpretation: English, French, Spanish

[PLEASE REGISTER HERE](#)

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

Expected Outcomes

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

Agenda

Facilitators:

- *Laurel Sprague*, Chief, Community Mobilization, Department of Gender, Human Rights and Community Engagement, UNAIDS
- *Rev. Dr. William Francis*, Atlanta Faith in Action

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

- *Dainius Pūras*, Director, Human Rights Monitoring Institute, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Vilnius university, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health: **A human rights based approach to mental health**
- *Ani Shakarishvili*, Special Adviser, Team Lead - Access to Treatment and Care, and Integration, UNAIDS: **Mental Health and HIV: Mental Health, Substance Use and HIV/AIDS: promoting human rights, an integrated and person-centred approach to improving HIV and health outcomes, well-being and quality of life**
- *Rev. Sarah Lund*, United Church of Christ Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice: **Spiritual Care Tools for Community Mental Health**

- *Sabrina T. Cherry*, Interdisciplinary Qualitative Studies Certificate, Assistant Professor, Public Health Faculty Fellow, UNCW Center For Social Impact: **Impact of spirituality on resilience and coping during the COVID-19 crisis**

Session 2 - Best Practices & Lessons Learned Session: HIV & COVID-19

- *Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga*, President of the Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV, **Espiritualidad, salud mental y resiliencia en las pandemias de COVID-19 y VIH (Spirituality, Mental Health and Resilience during the dual pandemics)**
- *Nkatha Njeru*, Coordinator, Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP), **Best Practices & Lessons Learned: The Case of ACHAP**
- *Applesta Da Costa*, Program Lead, Psychosocial Support for interventions in mental health, Human Touch Foundation, Goa, India, **Optimising Health/Non Health Outcomes for Adolescents Living with HIV amid COVID-19**
- *Fr Rick Bauer*, Director of Spiritual and Psychosocial Support for the Eastern Deanery AIDS Relief program in Nairobi, Kenya: **Spirituality, Mental Health and Resilience during the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and HIV: Understandings and practices from EDARP**

2021 Interfaith Health Platform Webinars

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