

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

10 December 2020

The Framework for Dialogue between religious leaders and networks of people living with HIV

A stigma and discrimination reduction intervention to promote greater access to HIV and health services to all

Background

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December, the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights(UDHR). The UDHR proclaims the inalienable rights which everyone is entitled to as a human being, regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

This year's Human Rights Day theme focuses on the need to build a better world by ensuring Human Rights are central to recovery efforts.

10 December is an opportunity to reaffirm the need to address stigma and discrimination and to raise awareness on the principle of 'ensuring that no one is left behind' – which are key to all human rights treaties. It is also the occasion to reaffirm the need for global solidarity as well as our interconnectedness and shared humanity.

Webinar: Framework for Dialogue

Date: 10 December 2020, Human Rights Day

Time: 3:00 to 5:30 pm CET

Virtual UNAIDS Platform: Zoom

Purpose

On the occasion of Human Rights Day 2020, the UNAIDS-PEPFAR Faith initiative aims to engage its focus countries and Implementing Partners (IPs) on a discussion around the Framework for Dialogue – a stigma and discrimination methodology and process to improve greater access to quality HIV and health services to all.

The FfD webinar will showcase a practical and inspirational example of stigma and discrimination reduction intervention by faith groups, in collaboration with networks of people living with HIV, the interfaith network of religious leaders living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, the governments and other key players, that can contribute to recovering better and fostering more resilient and just societies.

Objectives

- Frame stigma and discrimination interventions within the Human Rights agenda;
- Present the challenges posed by stigma and discrimination to access to HIV and health services, as well as to the achievements of the 95-95-95 targets and health outcomes;
- Introduce the People Living with HIV Stigma Index Study and its impact;
- Introduce the Framework for Dialogue Process and Methodology and its impact;
- Discuss ways to better implement the FfD in the Faith Initiative focus countries;
- Discuss opportunities of collaboration among partners;
- Discuss evidence-base and data collection of stigma and discrimination reduction interventions.

Stigma, Discrimination and HIV

Stigma and discrimination are among the primary barriers to HIV prevention, testing, treatment, care and support. They undermine HIV prevention efforts by making people afraid to seek HIV information and services; and they discourage people living with HIV from disclosing their status even to family members and sexual partners, undermining their ability to access and adhere to treatment. Stigma and discrimination weaken the ability of individuals and communities to protect themselves from HIV and to stay healthy if they are living with HIV. In addition, stigma and discrimination contribute to support the adoption of country's punitive and discriminatory laws, policies, and practices against people living with HIV. Addressing stigma and discrimination is even more urgent in today HIV and COVID-19 double-pandemics context.

Human rights treaties are particularly relevant to the principle of 'ensuring that no one is left behind'. The two International Covenants include the principle of non-discrimination in articles 2 of each treaty and they share article 3 promoting equality between men and women. Other human rights treaties focus on the rights of persons who are often left behind, including women, children persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, national, ethnic and racial minorities, persons in detention, migrant workers, and people suffering enforced disappearance. The principle of anti-discrimination was well- placed among the guaranteed rights of the child in art. 2 of the Convention.

The treaties set out a range of minimum protections from discrimination and other abuse as well as measures to promote equality. For a more effective response to

the HIV and COVID-19 pandemics is important to insert any faith stigma and discrimination reduction intervention within the human rights framework.

The Framework for Dialogue

The Framework for Dialogue (FfD) is a tool for increasing systematic, inclusive and sustained dialogue and collaboration between people living with HIV and religious leaders, also engaging with all other key players in the HIV response, at the local, national and global levels. The Framework for Dialogue provides practical steps to help faith communities and people living with HIV effectively address the key issues of concern to those most affected by HIV. It helps both groups – as equal partners – to address and discuss perceptions, experiences and beliefs relating to HIV, and to identify common goals in order to build new or stronger partnerships between each other.

This collaborative effort aims at creating opportunities for dialogue and joint actions for stigma reduction between faith-based and non-faith-based actors with the aim of improving access to HIV and health services to all. The collaborative structure of the “Framework for Dialogue” provides an effective, local and national-level tool for increasing mutually beneficial, systematic, inclusive and sustained dialogue and joint action between people living with HIV and faith communities, governments, and international and civil society organizations. It can also address the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV (PLHIV), and it helps to combat factors that increase vulnerability to HIV by such work as identifying strategies for improving adherence and retention.

Agenda: 2h30min

Session 1:

Facilitator: Sandy Thurman, Chief Strategy Officer, Office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy, US Department of State (Washington, DC, USA)

- Ibrahim Salama, Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: ***Stigma and Discrimination in International and Regional Human Rights treaties***
- Luisa Cabal, Special Adviser, Human Rights and Gender, UNAIDS: ***Stigma and Discrimination and their impact on HIV and COVID-19***
- Kate Thompson, Head of the Community, Rights and Gender Department at the Global Fund: ***Engaging with communities of faith to promote human rights and address stigma and discrimination***

- Mme MUJINGA BIMANSHA Marie Josée, Juge à la Cour de Cassation, Directeur Général du Service de Documentation et d'Etudes/Ministère de la Justice, Présidente de l'Association de Femmes Magistrats / Rd. Congo, Point Focal Pays VIH et Droits Humains: ***Stigma and Discrimination in DRC: what needs to change?***

Discussion –

Session 2:

Facilitator: Pernessa C. Seele, CEO and founder of Balm in Gilead, Inc.- ***Stand Up to Stigma: How we reject fear and shame***

Video: Stigma and Discrimination in Zimbabwe (GNP+)

- Alexandra Volgina, Programme Manager & Omar Syarif, Community Mobilization Manager, Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+): ***The Global Partnership to End Stigma and Discrimination & The People Living with HIV Stigma Index Study and its impact***
- Manoj Kurian, World Council of Churches – Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (WCC-EAA); Francesca Merico, UNAIDS – PEPFAR Faith Initiative; and Jacek Tyszko, Senior Faith Adviser, UNAIDS: ***Introduction to the Framework for Dialogue: methodology, process, impact, limitations*** (15 min)
- Rev Jane Ng'ang'a, Coordinator, Interfaith Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Affected by HIV and AIDS (INERELA+, Kenya): ***Impact of the Framework for Dialogue in Kenya*** (10 min)

Discussion

Facilitator: Pernessa C. Seele, CEO and founder of Balm in Gilead, Inc: ***Way forward: in countries implementation; opportunities of collaboration; M&E discussion, challenges and opportunities***

Closing

- Sandy Thurman, Chief Strategy Officer, Office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy, US Department of State (Washington, DC, USA)
- Jacek Tyszko, Senior Faith Adviser, UNAIDS