

## Special session (Main conference):

# The key role of the faith sector leadership in the HIV response in Africa.

Tuesday 7 December at 12:36 SAT

### Description

Since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, the faith sector, comprised of faith leaders, faith communities and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), have played an important role in the response to HIV, through their strong links with communities on the ground and their broad network of hospitals, clinics and other health facilities.

Faith leaders have much credibility because of their involvement, at the grassroots level, with people in every aspect of their lives, and for the many services they offer. As social and cultural institutions, FBOs shape social norms, beliefs, attitudes, and people's realities with regard to many aspects of their self-understanding, which makes them a crucial partner in the HIV and AIDS response. There is indeed evidence of FBOs' contributions in the health sector, providing care and support, building infrastructure, capacity building through training programs, and mobilising large numbers of volunteers.

This session will showcase examples of the leadership of the faith sector in the HIV response in Africa, in particular towards addressing the challenges posed by faith only healing, stigma and discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence. Speakers will also present best practices interventions to engage with and support key population groups, children and young people living with HIV, building bridges of collaboration with other sectors.

In addition, this session will be an opportunity to further engage the faith sector in the [12 Million Campaign](#) and [Commitments to Action](#) for a better coordinated and more effective faith response to HIV.

### Structure of the session

- Chair - Rev Godson Lawson: Introduction (5 min)
- Speaker 1- Imam Harouna Kone: The Key Role of the Faith Sector Leadership in Ivory Coast and in the African continent: the challenges posed by the faith only healing (7 min)
- Speaker 2 – Rev Jane Ng'ang'a: The Key Role of the Faith Sector Leadership on Paediatric HIV: engaging with children and young people (7 min)
- Speaker 3 – Rev Gideon Byamugisha: The Key Role of the Faith Sector Leadership towards addressing stigma and discrimination in Africa (7 min)
- Discussion – (14 min)
- Co-Chair – Rev. Godson Lawson: Closing (5min)