

FAITH TO ACTION NETWORK 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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Letter from the CEO



Greetings, and welcome to the 2024 Faith to Action Network Annual Report!

Thanks to our partners, members and supporters, the Network achieved a great deal this past year. The report details our accomplishments, and I suggest you read it in full. Let me highlight a few that are particularly important for our coming years.

Working with Al-Azhar University of Egypt, Muhammadiyah, Aisyiyah, and Universitas Aisyiyah Yogyakarta (UNISA) in Indonesia, the Network organized a landmark **Global Conference on Women's Rights in Islam** that brought together 180 scholars, activists, and leaders to explore women's rights through the lens of Islamic teachings. The global conference was a climax of online consultations guided by theological and practice papers on: concept of gender equality in Islam; the question of women's participation in private, public, and political life in Islam; position of Islam on violence against women: a critical look at sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence; status of women's property rights in Islam; right of custody to children in Islamic law; and women and the right to bodily integrity in Islam. The papers were compiled into a publication featuring showing the two perspectives (theology and practice) written by 24 contributors from across all continents. Please take a few minutes to read more about this in the report.

During the year, the Network received several substantial new grants. First, of all the Hewlett Foundation is providing invaluable core support and towards strengthening the cohesion of the multi-country SRHR programme. ACT-Sweden provided a supplementary grant to strengthen advocacy for girls' health. The Ford Foundation agreed to support a Gender-Based Violence prevention programme with faith actors in eleven West-Africa countries. All these new exciting partnerships will provide a solid foundation for the continued growth of our work.

Forty faith actors and youth actors from the membership of the Network had demonstrated such remarkable achievements that they were presented with awards, either at a Network meeting in Togo (for West-Africa) or at a Network meeting in Mombasa, Kenya (for Eastern and Southern Africa). The awards intend to recognize their work widely and to encourage each to continue or to replicate their work. Their reports on innovations and their many meaningful stories are forming the basis of faith-led advocacy in 2024 and in 2025. The Network will be present at major global and regional and events, as well as organize its' fourth interfaith convention in September 2025.

This letter is being written at a time when the world may seem more chaotic and precarious than in previous years. Let us continue to build on the strengths of faith actors and constant accompaniment of religious leaders to remain steadfast through challenging times.

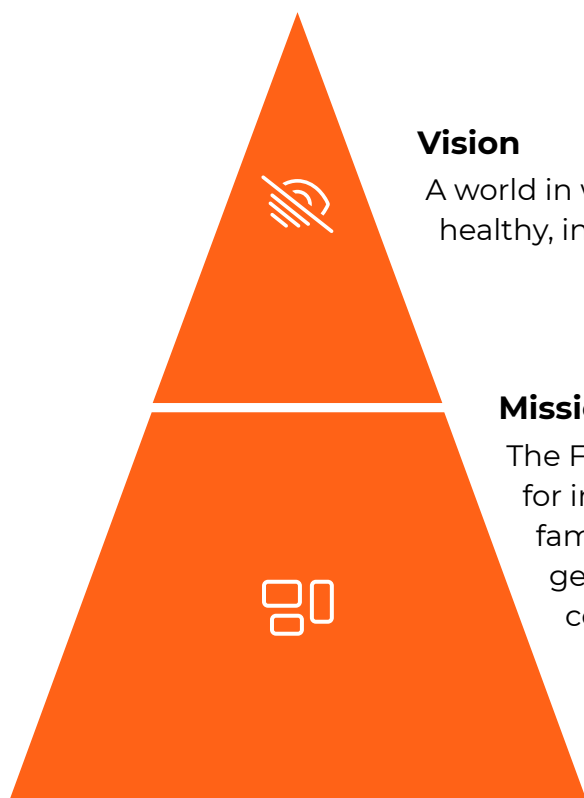
May peace be with you,

Chief Executive Officer

Peter K. Munene,

Who is the Faith to Action Network?

The Faith to Action (F2A) Network is a global interfaith network of Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Confucian, Hindu and Muslim faith organizations, with 140 members and 30 key partners, reaching more than a thousand faith institutions in 134 countries. Network members include faith institutions, local and national faith-affiliated organizations, and national and international networks. Network members are hierarchical, vertical, centralized, decentralized, formal, informal, elite, grass-root movements, clergy, laity and others. Members collaborate to advance the Network's strategic pillars: family health and well-being, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); women's rights and gender justice; freedom of religion and belief; and peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The Network mobilizes and activates faith actors for advocacy dialogues, trainings, exchange visits, peer education, and communications, such as dialogues, sermons, radio broadcasts, and social media. The Network coordinates and leads faith delegations in global, regional, national and sub-national decision-making venues. The Network strengthens their capacity, achieving an average 60% improvement in strategy formulation, 72% in advocacy planning, 43% in use of evidence, 32% in media advocacy, 31% in advocacy tactic selection and use, and 31% in coalition building. The Network organizes South-South linking, learning and strategizing in Africa and Asia, which includes safe space dialogues, exchange visits, and horizontal learning processes.



Vision

A world in which interfaith collaboration advances healthy, inclusive, just and peaceful communities.

Mission and Approach

The Faith to Action Network mobilizes faith actors for interfaith dialogue and collaboration to advance family health and wellbeing; women's rights and gender justice; and peaceful, just and inclusive communities, consistent with one's faith.

Seven Core Principles

1. Respect for human rights.
2. Pluralism, inclusion and appreciation for diversity.
3. Focus on common ground, fairness and solidarity.
4. Knowledge-based, oriented to innovation and learning.
5. Accountability, integrity and transparency.
6. Professional and solution oriented.
7. Transformative, seeking to catalyse meaningful change.

Family Health and Wellbeing

Faith to Action Network members invest in family health and wellbeing because it can help all people develop and enjoy full and fulfilling lives. Tackling the factors that undermine family health requires examining and shifting long-standing community norms, values and practices that may be cherished but harmful, such as child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), women's roles in the household, and SRHR. The Network is proud to report that over 17,000 girls in Sierra Leone have been spared from FGM in 2024 due to faith-based advocacy.

17,000+

Girls Protected

Girls in Sierra Leone spared from FGM in 2024

250+

Participants

People engaged in SRHR and gender equity workshops

5,000+

Youth Reached

Adolescents reached through SMS and social media

Strengthening Capacity

The Network in 2024 organized ten multi-faith training advocacy SRHR and gender equity workshops in **Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Togo and Ghana**. Over 250 people, including county representatives and religious leaders, participated in roundtable discussions and workshops that deepened understanding of adolescent SRHR barriers and catalysed advocacy for community-centred policy reforms.

The Network activated **four regional Communities of Practice (COPs)** in Southern Africa; Eastern and Horn of Africa; Francophone Western and Central Africa; and Anglophone Western and Central Africa. The Network organized six virtual teleconferences and held four regional in-person workshops, engaging **152 faith -based actors, 6 virtual conferences in West Africa totalling 301 participants** for gender justice and SRHR. These helped enable allies to learn from each other and become more effective in their community-level and national work to advance SRHR and gender justice. In 2025, a new F2A Network Movement Building Officer will focus on facilitating, boosting, and guiding these regional and thematic member hubs to ramp up their achievements.

The Network strengthened the capacity of faith actors to better align **Kenya's National Adolescents and Youth Reproductive Health Policy** with international standards for adolescent SRHR and to raise awareness in government about faith support for much-needed high quality, youth-focused services. The Network developed tailored workshops for **1,969** religious leaders and **470** civil society organization (CSO) representatives from Kenya's Isiolo, Marsabit, and Mandera Counties, strengthening their advocacy skills to influence adolescent SRHR policies. The training enabled participants to influence policymakers confidently, particularly regarding adolescent health. Ongoing technical support through online meetings helped the CSOs and faith actors maintain momentum on ASRHR advocacy. The Network's coaching has ensured that local leaders continue to collaborate effectively with policymakers to advance adolescent SRHR issues with an evidence-based approach. The Network capacitated **955 peer educators** across the three counties with knowledge and skills; they then **reached over 2,000 adolescents**, providing relatable and accessible adolescent SRHR information. Interfaith dialogues with **240 faith leaders** in Isiolo addressed SRHR needs from a religious perspective, increasing support among religious leaders and encouraging open conversations about adolescent SRHR in their communities. Use of CSO community scorecards in health facilities in Isiolo improved accountability and responsiveness to adolescent SRHR needs. The Network also supported county governments in conducting support supervision visits to health facilities in Marsabit, Isiolo, and Mandera counties. These visits ensured compliance with adolescent friendly service standards, leading to improved ASRHR service quality and accessibility.

In the Great Lakes Region – Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia, the Network delivered six training workshops, meant to empower religious leaders to be able to integrate SRH messages within the faith spaces. The trainings reached 120 participants to enhance SRH, gender and interfaith understanding. As a follow-up to the training, an outcome harvest workshop was held. The workshop aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- Review the progress of implementing the action points by the different groups as proposed during the training sessions.

- Harvest and document the successes and outcomes of the already implemented activities by the different groups.

- Provide an opportunity to discuss the opportunities and challenge emerging from the exercise of implementing the action points.

- Plan for evaluation exercise by F2A for all the implemented projects/activities, depending on the action plans presented during the past training.



Raising Awareness

The Network's family health awareness raising in 2024 focused on regions where network members are – Indonesia in Asia, East Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa and MENA region. To empower Kenya's youth with knowledge, leadership opportunities, and advocacy, the Network conducted youth and media engagement campaigns to disseminate messages on SRHR and gender based violence (GBV); organized safe-space discussions on adolescent SRHR policy issues; and facilitated intergenerational dialogues between youth and faith leaders. The Network trained **1563 youth from faith institutions and youth-led organisations** on general, legal and media advocacy for gender norms and adolescent SRHR, contributing to media and community campaigns for the International Youth Day and 16 Days of Activism Against GBV. The Network's support for World Population Day events in Kenya's Isiolo, Marsabit, and Mandera Counties reached **322 participants**, increasing adolescent SRHR awareness among diverse groups, including youth and people with disabilities. The Network's **targeted community outreaches** in the 6 counties in Kenya **reached 12,206 community members**, including youth and vulnerable populations, with information about FGM, teen pregnancy, and

HIV/AIDS. This outreach heightened community awareness on adolescent SRHR, with faith leaders and health officials collaborating to address harmful practices.

F2A Network reached **over 310,225 adolescents and young** people through telephone-based text message (SMS) campaigns and social media engagements with accurate, youth-friendly adolescent SRHR content. Network members used community theatre productions and radio dramas to help over **16,003** community members address sensitive adolescent SRHR topics, including on taboo subjects like early marriage and FGM.

16 Days of Activism Against GBV



#itakeaction Campaign

Led by gender justice champions across faith communities



#theredchaircampaign

Honoured victims of GBV through symbolic actions and online sessions



Virtual Sessions

Hosted “Uniting African Youth: Driving Change to End Violence Against Women and Girls” and “Gender Justice in the Changing Landscape: From Beijing to CSW69 to 2024 16 Days of Activism”.



Public Demonstrations

Organized faith participation in the Men’s Walk Against GBV (South Africa) and the End Femicide Walk (Kisii, Kenya) uniting stakeholders in demanding justice for GBV survivors.

The Network’s **Edutainment Initiatives** included supporting **Football Tournaments for FGM Elimination (Hosted by WASO Hope)** to mentor youth champions against FGM; and **Film Screening Sessions** focused on faith-driven gender justice messaging.

The Network organised a discussion in **Democratic Republic of Congo** with COMICO to promote the rights of **45 women and girls living with disability**.



In Mali, the Network in collaboration with the Catholic Women Association organised under the theme “**School and the Ignored Rights**,” a meeting which brought together **150 participants for girls’ access to education**.

In Togo, the Network and the **Methodist Church of Togo** hosted two sessions with **54 young girls** to build and increase their self-confidence and **130 women and girls** on Gender Based Violence focussing on female leadership, empowerment and gender justice.

In Burkina Faso, the Gender Ambassadors Club hosted a talk on ‘Girls’ and Women’s Rights and Religions,’ uniting diverse faiths to discuss women’s rights. Organized by Diakonia, a Faith to Action Network partner, the event brought together **over 200** students, parents, teachers, and religious leaders

Network and Alliance Building

The Network was very strategic in building movements and alliances with relevant faith networks and strategic partners. This meant building coordinated efforts of groups, and community institutions to create a social movement aimed at transforming societal relationships, culture, and institutions geared towards achieving the Networks' main goal.

F2A Network mobilized relevant stakeholders who share common visions, values, and goals and through these movements and alliances the network realized profound results such as more visibility, new membership, resources during joint activities, spaces at decision making tables by religious leaders etc. F2A Network supported 2 national RH Technical Working Group meetings and two sub-national meetings in Isiolo and Marsabit counties. The network also invested in strengthening faith actors' regional movement through exchange programs, supporting joint activities between regions and partners, and collaboratively co-facilitation of virtual meetings and webinars across regions.



Advocacy

The network did a lot of advocacy initiatives in member counties both national and regional level. At national, the network supported **231 religious leaders** to participate in **policy development**, review, validation and launch. In Kenya the religious leaders from Marsabit and Isiolo participated in the development of **"Understanding Adolescents: A guide for Parents and Caregivers"** **National SBC Policy** Validation and supported dissemination of the National Council Population Development Session 1 Paper in Mandera, Marsabit and Isiolo. Regionally, the network supported more religious leaders to attend **regional economic committee (REC) SRH policy advocacy** meetings.

This includes: **EALA, SADC, NEAPACOH, Great Lake Region and AU regional advocacy** meeting. The network also **engaged policy makers – 8 members of parliament** from Kenya in an exchange program with **GLR SRH sensitization meeting** held in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. F2A Network also held a **side event at the Summit of the future in New York** under the theme *'Faith Based Solutions for the Pact of the Future and Beyond'*. The event was instrumental for the network in terms of power mapping of main actors and prospective allies for the long-term engagement on accountability for the implementation of the Pact with a multisectoral and thematic intersectional approach.

Strengthening Faith Support for Adolescent Health

Faith to Action Network developed tools to facilitate interfaith training of Christian and Muslim leaders and adolescents in Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR).

This training yielded many outcomes including:

- 01** Strengthening the capacity of the faith leaders to speak openly about ASRHR enabled them to implement capacity building activities among faith leaders in their communities, increasing the involvement of Imams in ASRHR education and willingness to include the teachings in mosques and wider communities.
- 02** Formation of community adolescent clubs and hubs that provide peer-to-peer training activities with the help of faith leaders.
- 03** Establishment of multi-faith working groups and strengthened interfaith networks holding training workshops for adolescents and parents.
- 04** A ripple effect enabling faith leaders to formally partner with CSOs and governments, especially Ministries of Health (MoH).
- 05** Ability of participating faith leaders to detect and address teenage pregnancies, drug abuse and rape cases.
- 06** Establishment of informal, faith-led ASRHR curricula training students as peer educators in secondary schools and colleges across the countries.
- 07** Establishment of online GBV reporting systems in universities to help fight against sexual harassment and enabling chaplains to provide counselling.
- 08** Broader acceptance of ASRHR discussions among parents, Imams and church leaders with visible changes in attitudes of faith leaders, who now want to engage with communities and the government at large.
- 09** Increase in household acceptance of discussions on adolescent sexuality through parent sensitization.
- 10** Mainstream and social media dissemination of ASRHR messages.

Faith leaders faced a number of challenges, especially related to cultural norms and taboos against discussions on sexuality. However, there is evidence that the Network training manuals provide better ways of handling these tensions, through the use of easier language and examples that both the older and younger generations can identify with. There are also intergenerational challenges, that have been countered through peer training. A shortage of faith leaders trained in ASRHR demands that those who are trained can pass the same knowledge on to others for sustained outcome, so our train-the-trainer approach multiplies the effects for adolescents.

Advancing SRHR and Family Health Through Advocacy

With support from the Faith to Action Network, faith actors engaged with regional parliamentarians during meetings of the **Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH)** to review the implementation status of the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Africa and contributed immensely into the development of the **East African Community (EAC) Health Strategy**. High-level exchanges at the **East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)** birthed the SRHR bill which, upon passage, will be a great win for SRHR in the East Africa Community.

Faith to Action Network, together with the EALA and the Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations (EANNASO), conducted a consultative discussion to influence the EAC SRHR bill. Currently, restrictive laws and policies hinder access to essential SRHR services; harmful social norms and stigma continue to stigmatise SRHR issues; funding is insufficient for SRHR programs and services; and health systems are often inefficient and under-resourced. Participants agreed to work toward universal SRHR as a protected, accessible, upheld, and sustainably resourced fundamental human right by 2030. The report recommends strengthening collaboration among stakeholders, prioritising youth engagement, investing in data driven approaches, addressing cultural and social barriers, and advocating for progressive policy and legal reforms.

Faith to Action Network spoke to the **African Union Commission/Gender Directorate** on Pan African Women's Day to address critical issues impacting girls and women across Africa. The Network explained the need for women and girls to be able to make informed reproductive health decisions, reducing fertility rates and improving health outcomes.

Faith to Action Network collaborated with Nexus to address the concept of "family" contested in UN normative texts. The briefing paper critiques the patriarchal model of the family promoted in global discourse; highlights



the evolving nature of families; and calls for faith communities to challenge exclusionary narratives by promoting teachings grounded in human dignity, human rights, and social justice.

F2A Network organized a webinar on SRHR and religion in collaboration with the **United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Catholics for Choice**. This event educated UK civil servants and diplomats on the intersection of SRHR and religion. With 44 participants from across the globe, the Network's two expert speakers sparked lively discussions supporting the role of a global interfaith organization in advancing SRHR by encouraging religious acceptance through extensive institutional networks and community resources.

F2A Network participated in the German agency BMZ's SRHR technical working group, alongside representatives from German CSOs and the German development ministries BMZ and GIZ. The Network outlined its pivotal role in engaging faith actors for the global SRHR movement; piloting innovative social norms campaigns using Artificial Intelligence for localized messaging; and addressing the misuse of Article 18 (freedom of religion or belief) of the Human Rights Charter, often leveraged by SRHR opponents. The meeting showcased the critical need for collective action to sustain and advance SRHR amid global challenges.

From Tradition to Transformation: Faith Leaders Champion Gender Justice in Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, harmful gender norms and deep-rooted traditions like FGM are now being transformed, thanks to the F2A Network and its partners. Rev. Christiana Sutton-Koroma kicked-off momentum by initiating community engagement, religious dialogues, and advocacy campaigns. Local leaders, faith institutions, and community groups in the rural areas of Tonkolili and Kono have united to challenge harmful norms, including through Positive Masculinity Clubs. For the first time, both Muslim and Christian religious leaders now champion women's rights. The Anglican Church, which once barred women from the priesthood, now ordains them as priests and canons.

The campaign against FGM has seen remarkable success: former practitioners have abandoned the practice, turning into advocates for change. As a result, approximately 17,000 girls have been spared, and FGM is no longer a taboo subject but a topic of open discussion in communities. Alongside these efforts, over 789 women have benefited from economic empowerment programs, helping them start businesses and rebuild livelihoods. Media campaigns and youth advocacy in schools have reached over one million people with powerful messages about gender equality and social justice. These efforts have pushed forward important policy changes, including revision of the 2023 Education Act and enactment of Gender Empowerment Bills.

This movement marks a monumental shift, breaking gender stereotypes and redefining roles within homes, communities, and religious spaces. Faith leaders and communities that were once resistant to change are now embracing new practices, setting the stage for sustainable transformation.





Women's Rights and Gender Justice

Faith to Action Network members believe that all people are created equal; each is valuable and deserves respect. Because patriarchal norms are deeply entrenched among faith actors and in religious institutions, the Network's success advancing women's rights and gender justice is truly remarkable. Thanks to the Network, in 2024 women's leadership within faith communities has expanded and increased: Muslim communities in Sudan introduced Quranic schools for both girls and boys, enabling more women to take leadership roles as Sheikhs; and several churches amended their constitutions to allow greater female participation in leadership. In Burkina Faso, the Network's community-led discussions led traditional leaders to allow women to own land. In Togo, faith leaders integrated HIV-related topics into sermons, reducing stigma and raising reproductive health awareness.

Thanks to Faith to Action Network, 55 members from The Christian Council of Nigeria and partners were able to successfully implement a virtual meeting in celebrating the 16 days of activism on the theme "Uniting for justice" to break the silence, engage men and boys involving them in the conversation to promote health masculinity and gender justice.

In Burkina Faso in collaboration with Diakonia and other stakeholders during the 16 days of activism, a series of reflections were implemented in schools and communities.

Strengthening Capacity

The network during this reporting period **coordinated the implementation of second organization capacity Assessment (OCA)** for selected FBO – **3 in Kenya, 5 in South Sudan and 3 in Egypt** as a way of monitoring progress towards addressing identified gaps and improving overall capacity. The process was also meant to **ensure consistent strategic alignment to the network's objective** as well as provide a **comprehensive understanding of the organization's current capabilities** since their engagement. We also **strengthened their financial, communications, M&E systems** as well as training them on **resource mobilization**. During the organizational visits or online meetings, the Network did a **detailed**



financial reports review and gave feedback on identified gaps to ensure that the improved financial systems.

The Network's **positive masculinities faith champions** in collaboration with CSOs conducted **61 small groups trainings** (10-14 participants), **reaching 1,320 male champions** including faith and community leaders in Kenya, South Sudan and Egypt to support women's leadership within faith settings and challenge harmful norms. The network also held a **virtual positive masculinities reflection workshop** where the champions shared good practices and outcomes as a result of the previous year implementation.

The Network organized **three-day regional workshops** in **Mombasa, Kenya and Lomé, Togo**, with virtual and in-person training to **enhance advocacy capacity on gender justice**. In **Egypt**, the Network **equipped faith leaders with technical assistance on gender awareness and action planning**.

In **South Sudan**, the Network strengthened gender-responsive leadership skills for 87

young women and community members.

In **Palestine**, the Network convened three conferences promoting interfaith advocacy on gender justice with 130 participants; and engaged 20 participants in a video production project showcasing gender justice initiatives.

In **Kenya**, the Network delivered six training workshops, reaching 200 participants to enhance gender and interfaith understanding.

In **Zimbabwe**, the Network brought together 50 participants to reflect on gender justice within faith communities.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Network brought in collaboration with Council of Churches in Sierra Leone and Side by Side 30 faith leaders (men, women and youth) to reflect on empowering women and girls through the implementation of the Maputo Protocol.

Shifting Norms and Policies Through Advocacy

Faith to Action Network reached faith leaders in **Palestine** through **6 interfaith advisory group meetings** and convened faith leaders and young people in **four safe space sessions**, fostering inclusive discussions on **gender justice and inclusion**.

In **Egypt**, the Network strengthened interfaith collaboration with **250 Egyptian participants** through **five dialogues and two interfaith network-building events**; conducted seven high-level advocacy meetings with senior faith leaders, **promoting gender-sensitive policies**; and **reached 7,206 individuals** through two communication campaigns on faith and gender justice.

In **Kenya**, the Network helped **develop ten faith institution Gender Action Plans**, integrating gender justice into religious frameworks; led six community dialogues and **facilitated 54 peer-to-peer discussions on positive masculinities**, encouraging gender-equitable mindsets; and connected **600 Kenyan participants** through **8 interfaith dialogues**, promoting mutual understanding and respect.

In **South Sudan**, the Network connected young women with faith-based organizations through **4 roundtable meetings with safe dialogue spaces**.



Participants in Lomé, Togo during a training session aimed at strengthening advocacy capacity for gender justice

Responding to Femicide in Kenya

As Kenya witnessed a surge in femicide, the F2A Network partners Kisii County Seventh Day Adventists, Kisii Interfaith and National Independent Church of Africa (NICA) young women took action. Seeking to end femicide and all forms of GBV in Kenya, they contributed young women's views at an Interfaith Roundtable on Ending Femicide and GBV in Kenya, convened by Christian Aid and the All-Africa Conference of Churches. The roundtable enabled religious leaders, FBOs, media, and CSOs to seek solutions to femicide in Kenya. The group formed an interfaith task force to address the problem, with the Network supporting development of an advocacy agenda and encouraging young women of faith to participate in nationwide marches, raising awareness and calling for urgent policy responses to femicide. The Network mobilized faith communities to support helpful policies, such as the new Kisii County policy against gender violence, contributing religious views, approaches and moral authority.

Winning awards

Network partners from Nyatike Evangelism One Accord (NEOA), Safe Engage Foundation, and YWCA Kisii won leadership and advocacy awards at a capacity-strengthening workshop focusing on Eastern and Southern Africa. In religious conferences, the Network helped young women in Egypt and Palestine coordinate and lead sessions in their conferences; speak on a UNFPA online Webinar session themed "Multi-faith actors celebrate ICPD achievement, build bridges and shape the future for gender justice"; and win an award for their gender justice initiatives.

African Union Ministers' Meeting

At an **African Union Ministers' Meeting** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Faith to Action Network and partners urged the ministers to address child marriage, traditional harmful practices and the involvement of religious leaders in the policy processes. The Ministers agreed to endorse the Roadmap of the 2nd International Conference on Female Genital Mutilation held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; endorse the declaration of an Africa Day on Ending FGM and Child Marriage; and improve preventive measures, focusing on changing mind-sets and targeting influential societal figures such as traditional, religious, and community leaders.

AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

The **African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVAWG)** will be the first continental legal instrument for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, demonstrating African leadership and influencing global standards to protect and uphold the rights of women and girls in Africa. Faith to Action Network and its partners urged the AU Gender Directorate to ensure recognition of SRHR needs in the main text and to consider the lack of legal provisions on them to be considered as violence against women. The Network participated in the Convention drafting session of the Convention in Addis Ababa with Member States and will continue to track the Convention, which is expected to be presented for endorsement by Heads of States in 2025.

Advancing Women's Leadership in Faith Institutions

Faith to Action Network champions amplified women's faith leadership voices in 2024. At a St. Paul's University panel discussion, three young women from Network partner NICA and three Network secretariat representatives engaged with African Anglican female bishops — the "Famous Six". They shared experiences, learned from each other, and advocated for greater inclusion in church leadership. As a result, **two young women were elected in each NICA parish** in 2024 and **three young women completed theological training**, equipping them with leadership skills for faith spaces.

In Egypt, Kenya, Palestine and South Sudan, media campaigns, social media advocacy, and interfaith networks expanded the reach of gender justice messaging, mobilizing religious leaders and community members to support transformative change. The Network helped empower many women's organisations in fragile contexts:

- In South Sudan, Network support to four faith institutions led to a **75%** increase in young women's participation in church leadership roles, including safe spaces to address GBV. The South Sudan Islamic Council and Presbyterian Church promoted inclusive leadership for young women.
- Two major interfaith dialogues in Egypt with over **499 participants** from faith institutions, community leaders, and government officials. These dialogues successfully challenged harmful gender norms, fostered unified action plans for anti-violence laws and youth led discussions on harmful social norms. Faith leaders endorsed gender-equal teachings, leading to policy discussions on women's rights within religious institutions.
- Three interfaith advisory meetings in Palestine, engaging **130 participants** to advance gender justice initiatives, focusing on tackling child marriage and promoting gender equality.
- Facilitated partnerships among faith institutions and women's rights organizations in Egypt and Kenya, leading to the joint development of SGBV action plans, media outreach, and advocacy for women's rights within religious communities.
- In Kenya, faith-based institutions adopted Gender Action Plans, integrating gender-sensitive policies within their structures. Young women were elected to leadership roles, strengthening their influence in faith communities.

40

West-African Awards

\$1,000 awards to champions at two highly inspiring conferences held in Togo

20

East-African Awards

Awards to champions in Eastern and Southern Region of Africa, in Kenya

3

Award Categories

Leadership; Campaign and Advocacy; and Theological Innovations

Faith to Action Network provides awards to encourage, recognize and celebrate achievements, reinforce commitment, and help drive results-oriented action. In 2024, the Network gave twenty \$1,000 awards to champions in West-Africa at two highly inspiring conferences held in Togo, and another ten awards to champions in Eastern Africa and ten for Southern Africa. Awardees from East, West, South and the Horn of Africa were recognized in multiple categories: **Leadership; Campaign and Advocacy; and Theological Innovations**. Each awardee presented both poster and oral presentations on their recent work in promoting women's rights and gender justice, ranging from engagement of men in Family Planning, to innovative culture- and religion-sensitive methods of age-appropriate sexuality education & life planning.

Breaking Barriers: A New Wave of Gender Justice in Bamenda, Cameroon

In the heart of Bamenda, Cameroon, local women have long lived under the weight of cultural norms that limit their rights, with little awareness of the legal protections available to them. Within churches and mosques, discussions of GBV often urged spiritual women to endure oppression with humility. But this narrative has shifted, thanks to the bold efforts of Nsono Josephine Nwiemalu, Founder and Coordinator of the PEARL Foundation and dedicated participant in the F2A Network's project called Faith Actors for Justice (FA4J).

Drawing inspiration and tools from FA4J, Josephine led the PEARL Foundation's efforts to empower women, promote gender justice, and challenge harmful practices. In October 2023, the Foundation gathered 50 young and old, Christian and Muslim widows for a transformative workshop on their legal rights under the Maputo Protocol. Armed with new knowledge, they left the workshop ready to challenge societal norms that had long suppressed their rights. In April 2024, 60 grassroots women leaders – including faith leaders, women with disabilities, and activists – explored how they could advocate for women's justice in their communities, ensuring that survivors of GBV have access to justice.

The workshops sparked a collaboration between female lawyers, theologians, and journalists to form the first-ever faith-based gender justice network in Cameroon. Its WhatsApp platform has become a vital community of practice and referral pathway for managing GBV cases, enabling real-time support and shared knowledge across faiths and professions. Women lawyers now leverage the Maputo Protocol to offer legal support to survivors, while journalists amplify gender equality messages. Faith leaders, inspired by Josephine's leadership and FA4J, now work from their pulpits, breaking the silence that once surrounded these issues. Male clergy who previously stayed on the sidelines have stepped up as allies, championing gender equality within their congregations.

The impact of these efforts is tangible. Survivors of GBV now have access to legal support and guidance. The harmful belief that abuse must be endured silently is being replaced by a new narrative of justice and dignity. The WhatsApp network serves as a lifeline for survivors, facilitating referrals and support from lawyers, clergy, and community leaders. This movement is rewriting the story of gender justice in Bamenda, showing that real change happens when communities unite. Thanks to Josephine's participation in Faith Actors for Justice, and her tireless work through the PEARL Foundation, women in Cameroon are now empowered to stand up for their rights and break free from the limitations of tradition.



Peaceful, Just and Inclusive communities

Different faiths make it clear: we are all responsible for each other's welfare. Drawing on the African concept of Ubuntu, "I am because you are, and because we are, therefore I am," the Faith to Action Network promotes solidarity with all its neighbours, no matter who they are and what they believe in. The Network made significant strides in fostering harmony and social cohesion across Africa and Asia in 2024. By engaging over 300 local leaders, faith representatives, and community members, this collaborative effort has enhanced local governance, amplified advocacy for religious freedom and justice, facilitated cross cultural dialogue, and expanded regional and global influence.

Strengthening Capacity

In 2024, the Faith to Action Network mobilized more than 300 local leaders, youth, and faith representatives across multiple regions in Africa and Asia in capacity building workshops promoting dialogue and collaboration on peace and governance. The Network organized capacity-building workshops for religious leaders and women's groups in Ethiopia, fostering unity within communities and encouraging collaborative action for peace and social cohesion. The Network **organized legal rights workshops** in Kenya's Garissa and Taita Taveta counties informed 60 Muslim women of their rights and access to legal support resources. The Network **hosted confidence-building sessions** for 50 youth in religious spaces, supporting advocacy for youth rights and engagement in governance.



Empowering professionals through the JISRA Training on Documentation and Storytelling: enhancing communication skills, ethical practices, and engaging narratives. Participants embraced hands-on activities for lasting impact and collaboration!

The Network's training enhanced participants' understanding of communication dynamics; employed critical analysis through diverse perspectives; and instilled best practices for ethical and clear writing to ensure impactful communication across various contexts. Participants learned to create compelling narratives; gained proficiency in documentation techniques for impactful reports and briefs; incorporated insights from social media strategies and visual storytelling; and mastered ethical considerations in media practices.

The Network **conducted a safeguarding training** in Mombasa for all Kenya-based partners on peacebuilding and freedom of religion and belief (FoRB). The training enhanced safeguarding competencies and equipped participants with practical skills for effective implementation. Participants developed a strong understanding of safeguarding principles and international standards, including a person-centred approach, confidentiality, and accountability to affected population. They learned how to design and implement safe programs; establish effective

reporting mechanisms; and access survivor assistance services through reporting and referral pathways. They learned about implicit biases and barriers to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and how to handle complaints, implement community-based feedback systems, and conduct safeguarding assessments. Participants learned how to recognize signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation while increasing awareness of various forms of harm (physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, etc.) and their potential contexts. Discussion of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) emphasized the critical role of addressing power imbalances and implementing proactive measures to prevent abuse. Additionally, sessions on safeguarding roles and responsibilities clarified the importance of policy adherence and individual accountability, fostering a shared commitment to safeguarding principles. The training underscored the importance of fostering a culture of trust, respect, and empowerment within organizations.

Raising Awareness

Interfaith cross-cultural and learning events in Indonesia fostered peace and mutual understanding across religious communities, promoting harmony amidst a politically charged environment. The Network's Indonesian partner's **EcoBhinneka** Campaign **reached 2,719 people** across Instagram and other platforms, sharing peace and environmental messages during interfaith events and activities held across four provinces. In Kenya, diversity forums engaged over 200 participants across Migori, Isiolo, Kakamega, and Nakuru, focusing on promoting unity among various ethnic and religious groups. Interfaith hubs established in Uganda facilitated dialogues that included 15 local community members and faith leaders aiming to strengthen peacebuilding efforts across borders.



International Advocacy

Faith to Action Network promoted peaceful, just, and inclusive communities at the 8th International **Dakwah Conference** in Indonesia, speaking in the opening plenary to underscore the critical role and under-resourced efforts of faith communities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Network proposed targeted advocacy, digital literacy education, and infrastructure improvements to empower women through technology.

governments and UN actors; aligned national advocacy to regional and continental advocacy by Member States; and sent Briefing Notes to decision-makers in capitals and diplomatic missions in New York. The Network's recommendations were presented by the NGO Major Group representative to ensure accountability mechanisms on gender and reproductive justice and opportunities for youth. In a phenomenal advocacy win, these changes were accepted in the main text.

F2A Network organized faith actors to ensure that a new **Pact for the Future** by the governments of Namibia and Germany would accelerate progress towards advancing women's rights and peacebuilding. The Network sensitized faith constituencies to advocate towards the Pact of the Future and the Summit for the Future; organized consultative dialogue among global partners, including the two Co-Chairs of the UN Civil Society Conference in Support of the Summit of the Future; rapidly engaged policymakers by leveraging existing relationships with

At **PeaceCon 2024**, the world's largest gathering of peacemakers, Faith to Action Network hosted a dynamic panel discussion spotlighting EcoBhinneka, an Indonesian initiative fostering resilient, peaceful, and eco-feminist communities through multifaith collaboration and environmental action; and interreligious efforts in Dodola Ethiopia that demonstrate the transformative power of dialogue and leadership in reducing conflict by reducing deep-rooted mistrust through sustained faith community engagement and educational workshops.

Faith to Action Network contributed two proposals to help the **Dutch government** update its policies on civil society support. The Network addressed the importance of locally-led agenda setting and risk-sharing solutions that address the special challenges faced by Southern CSOs. These recommendations aimed to reduce structural inequities in funding and leadership opportunities in global partnerships.

Coordinating the Network's peacebuilding work with funders and philanthropists. Faith to Action Network successfully spearheaded the network's application process to join the Peace and Security Funders Group (PSFG), which is a network of philanthropists and foundations working collaboratively to promote peace, justice, and effective solutions to security challenges worldwide. Through knowledge-sharing, advocacy, and partnerships, PSFG supports efforts to prevent conflict, build sustainable peace, and address the root causes of violence. By connecting funders with critical resources and expert insights, the group enhances the impact of investments in global peace and security initiatives.

Mobilizing National Faith Actors for Peace, Justice and Inclusion

In 2024, the Network met with government representatives to address ethnic and religious conflicts **in Western Uganda**, encouraging compliance with NGO regulations and establishing interfaith hubs to promote cooperation across religious lines. In **Ethiopia**, the Network organized consultation sessions with faith leaders, youth, and government officials improved cross community dialogue, establishing key partnerships to support peacebuilding efforts. In **Kenya**, local outreach empowered Muslim women with knowledge of their legal rights under national and Sharia law, including referrals for legal support. The Network organized reflection sessions with religious leaders in **Uganda** that empowered local leaders to mediate inheritance challenges in alignment with local laws and religious principles. Diversity forums that the Network organized in **Kenya** promoted unity and collaboration among different faith groups, addressing rising ethnic and religious tensions. In **Ethiopia**, the Network activated local stakeholders in peace dialogues and received training in conflict-prone areas, creating resilient interfaith networks to manage local disputes. The Network orchestrated advocacy efforts in **Uganda** promoting freedom of religion and belief (FORB) for minority groups, positioning religious institutions as key players in national peace and governance dialogues

Global Recognition and Policy Influence

Zayed Award for Human Fraternity

Muhammadiyah's recognition in Abu Dhabi for its Eco Bhinneka initiative has spotlighted the intersection of environmental stewardship and interfaith harmony on a global stage. This prestigious award has opened doors for increased international collaboration and resource mobilization for peace initiatives.

Policy Reform Advocacy

WUFBON's efforts in Uganda have elevated religious institutions as key stakeholders in national peace and governance dialogues. Their advocacy has led to concrete policy discussions aimed at improving civil rights protections, particularly for minority religious groups.

Regional Peace Initiatives

The success of local programs has inspired regional peace initiatives, with partner organizations now collaborating across borders to address shared challenges. This regional approach has attracted attention from international bodies, leading to increased funding and support for transnational peacebuilding efforts.

Global Best Practices

The innovative approaches developed through these initiatives are now being shared as best practices at international forums. This knowledge exchange is influencing global strategies for promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, aligning with UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Global Conference on Women's Rights in Islam with Members Muhammadiyah and Aisyayah in Yogyakarta

Faith to Action Network helped organize the Global Conference on Women's Rights in Islam in May 2024 at the Walidah Dahlan Mosque's Convention Hall, Aisyiyah University Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Co-hosted with Al-Azhar University, Muhammadiyah, Aisyiyah, and Universitas Aisyiyah Yogyakarta (UNISA), this landmark event brought together 180 scholars, activists, and leaders from 20 countries to explore women's rights through the lens of Islamic teachings.

The conference launched a Faith to Action Network publication and gender equality advocacy tool featuring theological and practical insights from international 24 contributors from different parts of the world. Discussions on the report explored how Islam addresses gender equality; women's participation in private, public and political life; SGBV and domestic violence; women's property rights; child custody; and women's right to bodily integrity. Together, participants tackled critical issues like the role of Islam in promoting non-discrimination and justice. Conference participants agreed to:

- Network religious leaders (including the Imams), government and civil society at the community, national, regional, local and global levels to promote, fulfil, and protect women's rights in Islam.
- Strengthen capacity of religious leaders, including Imams, to understand contemporary women's issues in religious texts, and to implement progressive values in dynamic environments using religious texts.
- Implement progressive religious interpretations on women's rights in Islam, in teaching, policy-making, programs, and other activities through dialogue among texts, contexts, and past and present scholars.
- Enliven gender justice in Islam at all levels of society, in domestic and public spheres.
- Recognize and give space for women to participate meaningfully in leadership and knowledge generation.
- Challenge cultural practices and positions that undermine gender equality.
- Recognize the diversity of women's experiences as resources to deal with gender issues in Muslim world.
- Abolish all harmful practices (FGM/C, forced marriage, child marriage, etc.) against women in the Muslim world.
- Advocate for formation of future leaders through exposure-exchange and scholarship, as spearheaded by Muhammadiyah and Al Azhar University.
- Document good practices and research recognizing the agency of classical and contemporary women scholars.

Through its rich dialogue and diverse contributions, the conference reinforced the shared values of Islam and human rights, presenting a progressive and empowering perspective that aligns faith with action for women's empowerment globally. The event marked a significant step toward reshaping narratives on women's rights within religious frameworks.

Freedom of Religion and Belief

In 2024, the Faith to Action Network made substantial progress in advancing Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) across Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Indonesia. The Network's interfaith dialogue, capacity building, public engagement, and policy advocacy enabled diverse faith groups to work collaboratively toward tolerance, coexistence, and inclusive governance. These efforts strengthened community resilience and contributed to conflict prevention, social cohesion, and sustainable peacebuilding. Across all initiatives, Network FoRB programs in these countries **reached over 5,000 individuals**.

FoRB achievements in Kenya

In Kenya, the Network's grassroots sensitization programs **equipped 1,000 community members** (390 male and 610 female), with knowledge on religious freedoms, conflict resolution, and social justice. The Network convened **interfaith dialogue** meetings with **61 faith leaders** (29 male and 32 female) to promote peaceful coexistence through shared experiences and structured dialogue. The Network **strengthened religious harmony** through multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings and workshops, where **81 representatives** (36 male and 45 female) from religious, civil society, and government sectors collaborated to advance FoRB advocacy.

The Network organized County-Based **Interfaith Youth Dialogues and Capacity Building Sessions** enabling **over 400 young leaders** to play an active role in policy discussions and peacebuilding. The Network's County Peace Summits and Annual Regional Interreligious Symposiums helped **450 faith leaders, women, and youth** exchange best practices in interfaith collaboration and conflict resolution. The Network conducted legal rights awareness outreach to 111 community members, empowering them with knowledge on religious freedoms, human rights, and legal protections. The Network's Women's **Interfaith Leadership Trainings empowered 180 women** with mediation and advocacy skills to strengthen their role in promoting religious freedom and addressing gender-based religious discrimination.

Uganda moves toward peace and understanding

In Uganda, the Faith to Action Network efforts to promote FoRB centred on interfaith and intra-faith dialogues, mentorship, and youth engagement. The Network organized interfaith dialogues with **109 religious leaders and community members** (20 female youth, 12 male youth, 36 female adults, and 36 male adults), strengthening collaboration among faith-based actors and addressing key social and religious concerns, promoting peaceful coexistence. The Network facilitated cultural shifts toward positive religious practices through dialogue sessions on harmful traditional practices, engaging **25 traditional leaders and community members** (eight female youth, six male youth, six female adults, and three male adults). The dialogues encouraged progressive interpretations of religious traditions while fostering a collective commitment to human rights and inclusivity.

The Network organized meetings and experience-sharing visits with **327 participants** (63 female youth, 209 male youth, 14 adult women, and 38 adult men), enabling structured learning opportunities and leadership development for young faith leaders. The Network's **awareness-raising forums on peace and reconciliation engaged 185 participants**, creating safe spaces for interfaith collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The Network developed rapid response mechanisms in Uganda, so that religious leaders could intervene where religious conflict arose. These rapid response initiatives by religious leaders assisted **129 individuals**, reinforcing community resilience in addressing religious tensions and promoting dialogue-based conflict resolution.

Peacebuilding in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, the Network focused on faith-based training, interfaith dialogue, and community-driven advocacy, with a strong emphasis on women and youth engagement. The Network organized conflict resolution and peacebuilding training sessions to provide Muslim women and youth with essential interfaith dialogue skills. The Network's FoRB training sessions for **30 male religious leaders** (Imams and Sheikhs) strengthened their advocacy for religious inclusivity and human rights.



The Network conducted extensive public engagement, reaching thousands of community members. The Network's community campaigns, town hall meetings, and public awareness sessions engaged **over 344 people**, promoting religious acceptance and peaceful coexistence. The **Network's Women of Faith Dialogue Sessions and Interfaith Youth Conferences** engaged hundreds of participants, advancing gender equity and youth participation in religious discourse.

The Network helped **institutionalizing FoRB by bringing faith-based actors to meetings with national and regional advocacy networks**. The Network **organized digital literacy training for 112 individuals**, equipping them with tools to counter hate speech and misinformation while promoting FoRB online.



Advancing Pluralism and Ecological Stewardship in Indonesia

The Network's approach to FoRB in Indonesia combined environmental sustainability with religious tolerance, introducing initiatives that engaged thousands of participants. EcoBhinneka festivals, interfaith tree planting, and sustainability workshops linked environmental conservation with interfaith collaboration, engaging **over 1,500 participants**, bringing together religious leaders, youth, and community members to promote harmony through ecological stewardship.

The Network **promoted religious tolerance through interfaith youth and women's leadership training programs**, which equipped participants with leadership, dialogue, and advocacy skills. The Network organized media campaigns, TV broadcasts, and storytelling initiatives to bring FoRB awareness to wider audiences. The Network **organized public campaigns, tolerance festivals, and interfaith dialogue sessions** for religious communities to engage in constructive dialogue and collaborative peacebuilding.

Our innovative programs showcased the intersection of environmental responsibility and religious harmony. Network workshops on waste management, circular economy initiatives, and Biopore technology training demonstrated how faith communities could contribute to sustainability while fostering interfaith collaboration. The Network's social media advocacy campaigns further amplified religious tolerance messaging, expanding the reach of FoRB discussions to online audiences.



Grow and Sustain

Knowledge products

The Network conducted a comprehensive study to synthesize and analyse its engagement with religious actors over the past five years, **Religion and the Journey Towards Gender Equality: A Review of Faith to Action Network's Perspectives and Experiences in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia**. In collaboration with scholars from the University of Zimbabwe, the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research at Al-Azhar University, and the State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, the research shows the intersection of religion and women's rights in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, drawing on insights from 530 faith actors across 40 countries. It examines how Christian and Muslim faith actors shape gender norms and advocate for gender equality within diverse cultural and theological frameworks.

After conducting months of regional consultations, the Network is proud to have completed **Women's Rights In Islam: Global Reflections on Practice and Theology**, a resource book developed jointly by Al-Azhar University, Faith to Action Network and Muhammadiyah. The resource synthesises practice and theology to achieve a high level of coherence and clarity on many contentious issues in Islam today, including: advancing gender equality; promoting women's participation in private, public and political life; preventing violence against women (SGBV and domestic violence); advancing women's property rights; promoting the right to custody of children; and promoting women's right to bodily integrity. It is a valuable resource for practitioners in the field, theological institutions, believers, scholars, religious leaders, activists and advocates, faith-inspired policy-makers and politicians who draw on their Muslim faith to promote and protect the rights of women.

Faith to Action Network, in partnership with UNESCO, developed a set of contextualized **multi-faith sexuality education manuals and guides for religious leaders** that draw from Muslim, Buddhist and Christian scriptures. These resources equip faith actors to address age-appropriate sexuality education in effective ways.

Faith to Action Network developed a policy brief urging African parliamentarians and religious leaders to jointly lobby for more domestic health financing and removing legal barriers to ensure adolescents and young people in Africa can realize their SRHR and flourish.

Faith to Action Network commissioned the African Renaissance to develop a **Policy Observatory System** to enhance continental coherence of existing SRHR policies, frameworks, decisions, declarations, protocols, treaties and laws. This work will help provide evidence-based policy recommendations and tracking systems to be developed to aid policymakers in strengthening evidence-based decision processes and policy and regulation development.

Documenting Faith Actors' Positive Influence on Gender Norms

Towards the end of 2024, Faith to Action Network launched a new partnership with the Gates Foundation, marking the culmination of a two-year engagement process with their representatives. This \$2 million, three-year research project aims at engaging faith leaders in Kenya to shift gender norms and improve the health and well-being of adolescent girls and young women.

Achieving gender equality is essential in its own right and critical to reaching other development goals. However, while the role of faith actors in development in general is recognized, the role of religion in promoting or hindering gender equality is complex and nuanced. Faith actor involvement in gender issues is multifaceted, and their agendas on gender can vary widely. Network experience, corroborated by recent research findings, demonstrates that partnering with faith actors to advance gender equality can yield high returns but is complicated, sensitive, and typically requires long-term investment. Faith actors' gender agendas can be difficult to discern, and while they may provide beneficial services, they might also impose restrictive gender roles and behaviours. Faith actors working on gender equality often feel marginalized and stigmatized by secular counterparts, while secular sectors are wary of engaging with faith-based actors, so genuine partnerships are rare. Evidence shows that successful partnerships require choosing appropriate religious leaders, enhancing the religious literacy of secular development practitioners, and conducting thorough analysis to understand the specific intersection of gender and religion in various contexts.

This new project will test approaches for engaging faith leaders to shift gender norms affecting the health and well-being of adolescent girls and young women in Kenya. The project adopts a collaborative approach, establishing interfaith hubs, mobilizing faith actors, and providing training, subgrants, and prizes to drive actions that promote gender equality and health outcomes. It seeks to generate evidence on the impact of faith-based initiatives, build knowledge, and create sustainable partnerships between faith communities and development sectors for broader scalability. Early results are expected in 2025.

New and renewed funding partnerships

Faith to Action Network in Nairobi signed a **framework agreement with Brot für die Welt** to provide training and ongoing support to its 1,600 partner organizations worldwide. After year-long strategic discussions with the **Ford Foundation**, the Faith to Action Network launched a two-year initiative in West Africa to address gender-based violence by mobilizing faith institutions across eleven countries. Faith to Action Network initiated a new project in collaboration with **ACT Church of Sweden** and funded by SI – Creative Partnerships. Titled **#RightByHer - Upholding Rights for All** this is a campaign to combat regressive trends in women's rights and gender equality in seven African countries by leveraging the influence of faith-based change agents.

Building on prior success, the Network will advance its collaboration with **UNESCO**. In partnership with UNESCO headquarters and the regional office in East Africa, a variety of promising strategies were identified to strengthen faith actors' understanding of sexuality education, such as:

- Establishing networks of religious actor champions
- Building and sharing knowledge to empower religious actors' constructive norms
- Leveraging storytelling and media partnerships to disseminate positive religious perspectives
- Embedding sexuality education into religious teachings
- Promoting dialogue among faith actors, youth, and policymakers to influence public opinion and policies
- Recognizing and celebrating achievements through awards

Importantly, the Network initiated a large body of new work to measure religious actors' effect on positive gender norms change in Kenya with support from Global Health Visions and the Gates Foundation (see inset box).

Accountability

To improve its effectiveness and accountability, Faith to Action Network commissioned an external organisational review from aCatalyst in March – May 2024. The recommendations provided a new focus for movement building and strengthening the network, including a modest restructuring of the teams. The Network will pilot using 'ProjectConnect', a tool for monitoring project activities, results and burn rate of project budgets in 2025.

The Network improved **governance** by renewing its constitution, drafted when Faith to Action Network was founded in 2011, to accommodate for membership growth; to promote more diversity in membership; to encourage faith-based youth organizations and individual members to join (like long-supporting scientists whose respective universities cannot register as an institutional member); and to provide new representation mechanisms: a Supervisory Council and an Advisory Council.

A new **Environmental Policy** emphasizes integrating environmental responsibility into the network's advocacy, programmes, and operations to minimize its ecological footprint and promote sustainability. A new **Gender Policy** promotes a transformative approach to achieving gender equity and equality by addressing systemic barriers and power imbalances that hinder marginalized groups from thriving. A new **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** supports women's rights through an intersectional lens, with a focus on LGBTQI individuals.

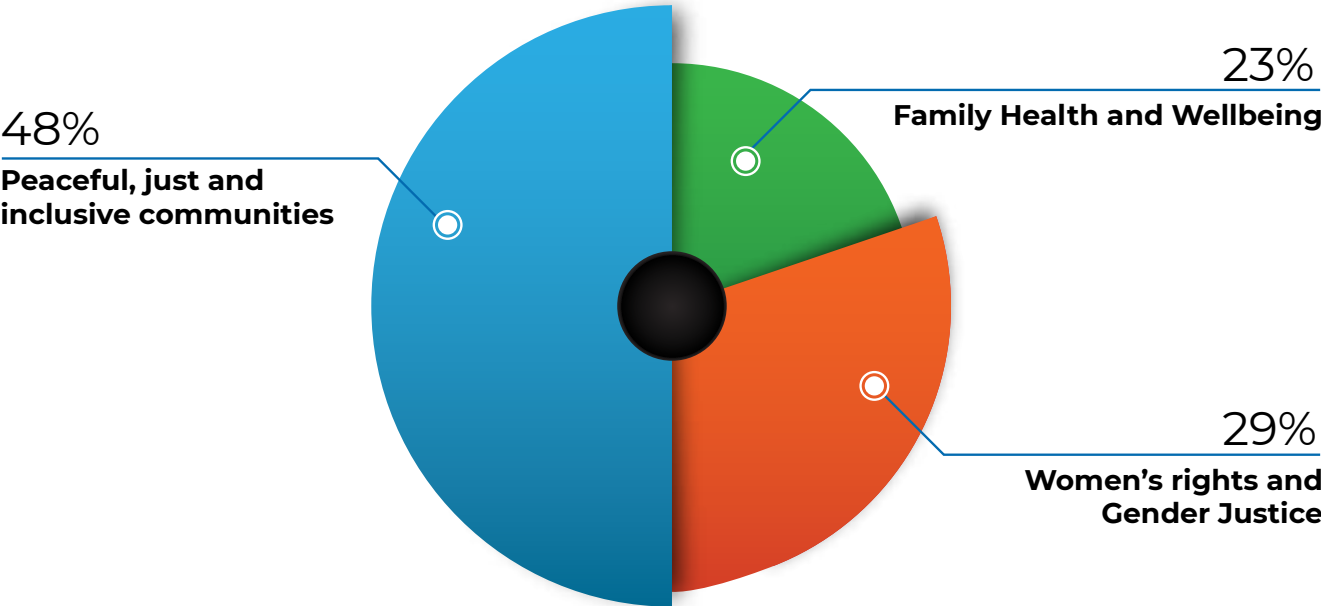
Financials

Faith to Action Network expenditure was €3,306,924 in the year ended 31st December 2024, an increase of €1,061,686 681,089 compared with 2023. The largest part in funding was under the thematic area of Peace, Just and Inclusive Communities. Newly funded projects were the Interfaith Adolescents Girl Hub (Global Health Visions/Gates Foundation), Right by Her (ACT Sweden), Interfaith Regional SRHR programming (William and Flora Hewlett Foundation).

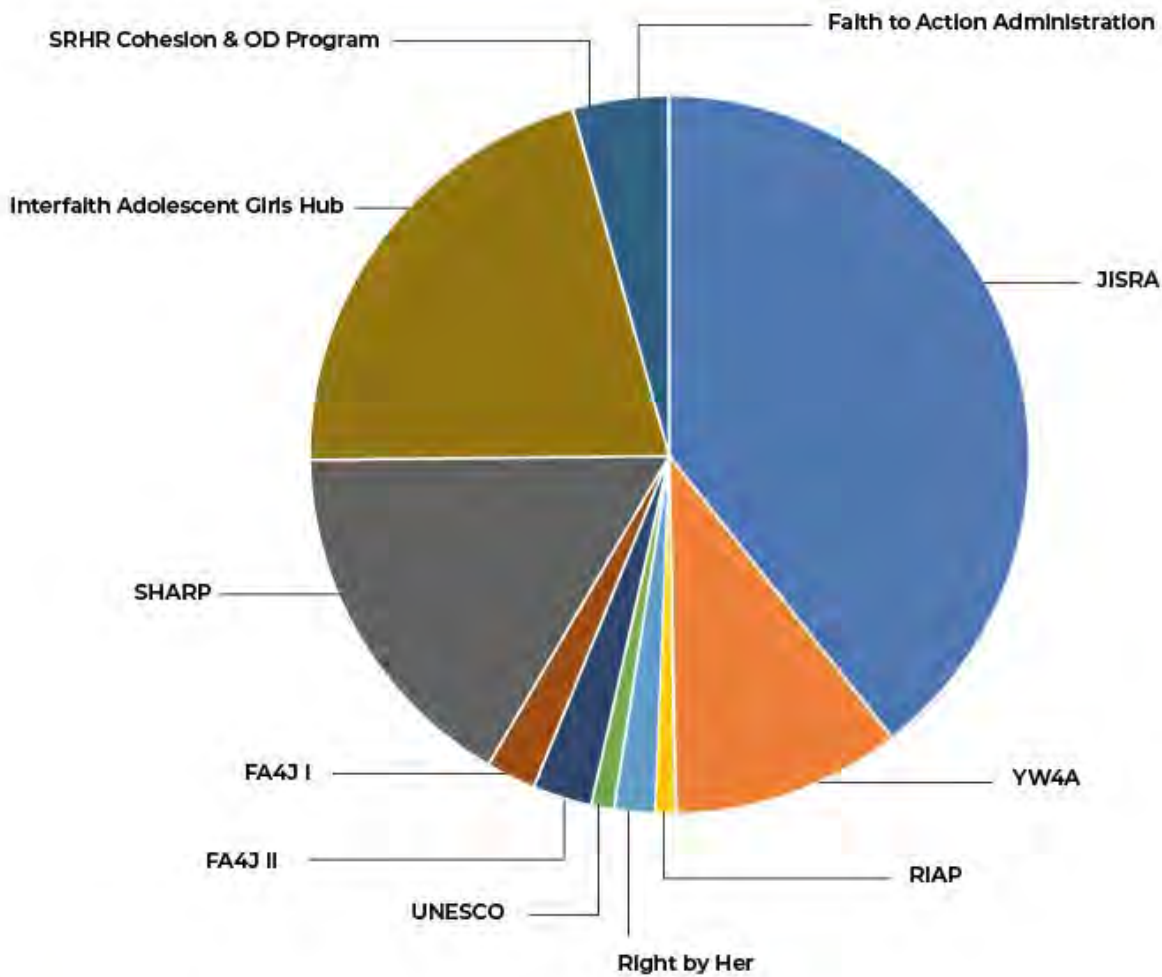
2024 FINANCIALS

	Income 2023	Income 2024
Family Health and Wellbeing	€ 680,125	€ 944,837
Women’s Rights and Gender Justice	€ 501,421	€ 757,257
Peaceful, Just and Inclusive communities	€ 1,063,692	€ 1,604,831
Total	€ 2,245,238	€ 3,306,924

Income by Thematic Area 2024



Income by Project



A big thank you to members and supporters

The Network owes a great debt of thanks to its supporters, as well as all those who contribute their time, knowledge, expertise or financial support. The Network offer its sincere appreciation to:

Members: Spread across five continents and representing Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Confucian, Hindu and Muslim faiths, the Network's 140 members and 30 key partners offer a rich diversity and immense opportunities to learn, share experiences and work together.

Major donors: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, Brot für die Welt, SIDA and Church of Sweden, UNESCO, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Gates Foundation.

Steering Council Members:

- Chairperson: Rev. Canon Grace Kaiso, Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa, Uganda
- Vice Chairperson: Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ragaa Ragab, Al-Azhar University, Egypt
- Alternate Treasurer: Ms. Jacinta Okumu, African Council of Religious Leaders, Kenya
- Secretary: Mr. Peter Kariuki Munene, Faith to Action Network, Kenya
- Member: Dr. Emma Rachmawati, Muhammadiyah, Indonesia
- Member: Mr. Doug Fountain, Christian Connections for International Health, USA
- Member: Ms. Alinda Bosch, Cordaid, Netherlands .

The policy oversight and guidance of this Steering Council has rooted the Network in advocacy for value-based transformation and innovation.

NGO partners (beyond Network membership): Mensen met een Missie, Search for Common Ground, Tearfund, Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, World YWCA and their members, KIT Gender, Equality Now, Health Action International, Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations (EANNASO), ACT Ubumbano, World Faiths Development Dialogue, ACT Alliance, Muhammadiyah, Religions for Peace South Africa.

Faith to Action Network staff: A relatively small Secretariat has done fantastic work under challenging circumstances, and steered implementation of diverse interventions at global, regional, national and community levels together with a wide range of members, partners and key resource persons in many countries over the world.



Get involved!

BECOME A PARTNER

No one can solve the world's problems alone. Strong partnerships—with faith organisations, civil society organisations, aid agencies, corporations, foundations, governments, and local organizations—are needed to create a world where people live healthy, peaceful, quality lives. From Uganda to the Indonesia, Faith to Action Network partnerships tackle strategic priorities: sexual and reproductive health and rights; gender equality and women's rights; pluralism and understanding. To learn more, [click here](#).



BECOME A MEMBER

Join the Faith to Action Network to mobilize faith organizations' support. Engage with people who matter. Be part of a strong community for networking, dialogue, sharing, learning and partnership. Access technical and financial resources. Raise your voice and be heard through representation in national, regional and international decision-making processes. To learn more, [click here](#).

JOIN US AT AN EVENT

Faith to Action Network values learning and sharing as a central part of its work. The Network host, attend, and present at countless events, conferences, workshops and trainings throughout the year. Watch for upcoming events, by clicking here. To find us at an event, [click here](#)



Annex: Photos

Faith Actors For Justice Event for Eastern & Southern African held in Kenya & Central, Francophone & Anglophone Africa held in Togo



International Dakwah Conference (IDACON)

Faith to Action Network participated in the opening plenary session, presenting the role of religious communities in contributing to the SDGs.



Youth Camp

Capacity building workshop promoting dialogue and collaboration on peace and governance.



Global Conference on Women's Rights in Islam

This event brought together 180 scholars, activists, and leaders from 20 countries to explore women's rights through the lens of Islamic teachings.

The conference launched a Faith to Action Network publication and gender equality advocacy tool featuring theological and practical insights from international 24 contributors from different parts of the world.



Helpful terminology

ASRHR	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
AU CEVAWG	African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
CCIH	Christian Connections for International Health
COP	Community of Practice, groups for sharing knowledge about best practices
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil society organizations include a wide range of non-government organizations. The term is often used to refer to local community groups, and typically excludes companies.
CSW	United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
EAC	East African Community
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
EANNASO	Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations
EVAWG	African Union Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Convention
Faith	Faith is the belief, confidence or trust in someone, something or doctrines or teachings of a religion.
Faith Leader	Women, men, young women and young men recognised by their faith community, both formally or informally, as playing authoritative and influential leadership roles to guide, inspire or lead others –e.g., religious or lay leaders, (religious) teachers, congregational leaders, other religious activists and influential stakeholders, including female and youth actors.
Faith Organization	An organisation whose values are based on faith, religion and/or beliefs. The faith to which the organization is relating to does not have to be academically classified as religion. This includes many diverse organisations: hierarchical, vertical, centralized, decentralized, formal, informal, elite-based, grass-root movements, clergy, laity etc.
Family planning	Family planning is the healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy using natural and modern methods of contraception.
FA4J	Faith Actors for Justice, a project that Faith to Action Network supported.
FBO	Faith based organizations include a wide range of formal and informal organizations that are rooted in faith or affiliated with a religion
FGM/C	Female genital mutilation or cutting, a practice that is not sanctioned by religion but persists in many communities due to long-standing cultural traditions
FoRB	Freedom of Religion and Belief
GBV	Gender based violence
GIMAC	Gender is My Agenda Campaign
Gender justice	Gender justice is the recognition that men and women are equal in dignity and ought to enjoy rights, responsibilities and opportunities equitably.
HTPs	Harmful traditional practices
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development

Helpful terminology

Inclusion	Inclusion means allowing equal voice and giving equal space to all groups, including the aggrieved and marginalized so that they can engage with each other in productive dialogues and cooperatively work together.
NEAPACOH	Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health
MoH	Ministry of Health
Peaceful And Just Communities	Communities where people are conscious about their diversity/differences but embrace living together, accommodating one another, cherishing their diversity and drawing strength from their diversity and committing to resolve their differences peacefully or non-violently, ensuring fairness and respect for all (the means are as important as the end)
PSFG	Peace and Security Funders Group
Religion	Religion is a set of beliefs, practices or teachings related to someone or something.
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
SGBV	Sexual and gender based violence
SMS	Short Message Service is a text messaging service component of most telephone, Internet and mobile device systems.
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights. Sexual and reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being in all matters relating to sexuality and the reproductive system. (Source: UNFPA)
Tolerance	Tolerance is the appreciation of diversity and the ability to live and let others live. It holds that people in all their diversity, especially from minorities, need to be accepted in society and their rights respected and accepted even if the majority disagrees with their ways.
UN	United Nations
USCIRF	United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
Women's rights	Women's rights are the rights and entitlements claimed for women and girls to live free from violence, slavery, and discrimination; to be educated; to own property; to vote; and to earn a fair and equal wage (Source: Global Fund for Women)
WRO	Women's rights organizations are dedicated to advancing gender justice



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