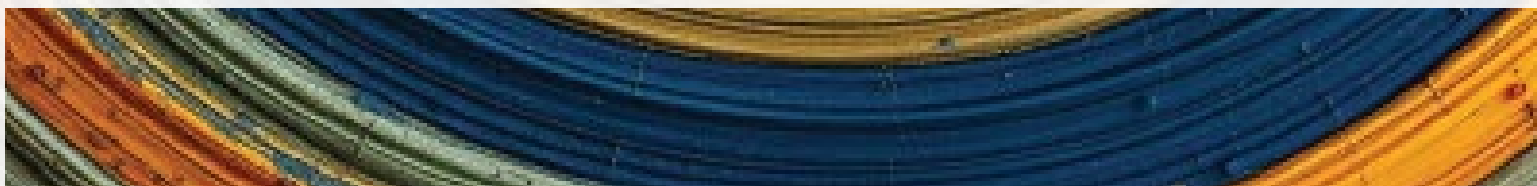




**INTERFAITH  
CONVENTION 2025**

Theme: Faith Actors: Stewards of Change

## **4<sup>TH</sup> INTERFAITH CONVENTION PROGRAM**



# Introduction:

The Interfaith Convention **2025 theme, Faith Actors: Stewards of Change**, reaffirms the responsibility of faith actors to serve not only as moral guides but as active and responsible change agents.

At a time of shrinking civic space, when human rights are under threat, and there is a persistence of discrimination, marginalization, hatred, conflict and suffering, we are called to affirm human dignity, justice, and freedom for all.

Faith to Action Network has held three previous Conventions (2019, 2021, 2023). As part of its mandate, Faith to Action Network leverages these platforms to promote experience sharing and learning among faith organizations and also with secular organizations. The Network will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> Convention from 23rd-25th September 2025.

## Convention Methodology:

### The Convention offers:

1

A rich program, including **plenary sessions** for broad discussions and **parallel sessions** for deeper dives into specific topics.

2

**Side events** and **partners meetings** will foster collaboration and networking among diverse organizations.

3

**Bilateral sessions** provide opportunities for focused discussions, complemented by **fun events** to build community.

4

A dedicated **Youth-Preconvention** ensures young voices contribute significantly to the conference's agenda.

## Plenary Sessions: Situate Efforts in Global Change

The Interfaith Convention plenary sessions will be unique opportunities to situate the faith actors' efforts within the changes happening at global level. The Convention recognizes that the world today has experienced profound changes. It further acknowledges that faith actors remain resilient, resolute and relevant.

Amidst the ongoing wars in different parts of the world, deepening extremism, retreat into narrow nationalism, as well as the backlash against women's rights and sexual reproductive health and rights, people of faith continue to present effective responses.

Driven by their deep convictions and commitment to the health, dignity and flourishing of all, faith actors sustain their communities and contribute to global peace and security, health, women rights and gender justice and inclusion of the marginalized.

The plenary sessions are expected to give participants enlightenment as they discuss various thematic issues in parallel sessions.

## Plenary Session Objectives



### Global Responsiveness

Gain insights on how to respond to global changes and sustain impactful community engagements in family health, women's rights, gender justice, and other emerging issues.



### Enlightening Dialogue

Create a platform for sharing enlightenment on emerging issues and trends, their impact on faith communities' interventions, and illuminating pathways for engagement and response.

## Parallel Sessions Objectives

### Experience Sharing & Learning

Provide opportunities for members and partners to deepen the sharing of experiences from lived interventions, while learning best practices for scale-up and replication.

### Celebrating & Influencing

Offer opportunities for members and partners to celebrate the successes of unique faith-led interventions, while establishing opportunities for their integration into policy making.

### Dialogue & Innovation

Provide opportunities for members and partners to dialogue on changing contexts and challenges, promoting dignity, equity, inclusion, and enhancing resilience and innovation.

The Convention will document lessons shared within sessions to capture the faith contribution and serve as a reference for replication and scale-up for various agencies.

# Youth Pre-Convention Programme

**Venue: Kyaka Hotel**

**Monday, September 22, 2025**



## **08:00 - 08:30: Arrival and Registration**

Participants check in and receive welcome packs.

**Facilitator**

**Time:** 08:20 - 09:00

## **Opening & Icebreaker**

Welcome remarks, interfaith prayer/reflection, and a fun, inclusive icebreaker activity to set the tone.

**Facilitator**

Neema Nyaundi-F2AN

**Time:** 09:00 - 11:00

## **Galvanizing Youth Voices and Strengthening Intergenerational Dialogue in Faith Spaces**

A reflective session using talking circles to explore challenges and opportunities youth face in faith-based advocacy. Discussions will touch on SRHR, peace and justice, harmful practices (e.g., FGM, early marriage, teenage pregnancy), and intergenerational dynamics.

**Facilitator**

Nejat Oumer, Liz Kabaara, Glory Kathambi

**Time:** 11:00 - 11:30

## **Tea Break**

Short break with refreshments.

**Time:** 11:30 - 13:00

## **Mentorship on professional development**

Practical guidance from professionals on career growth, leadership, Intergenerational leadership, and how to build a strong, value-driven personal and digital branding, strategic advocacy for interventions, intergenerational leadership.

**Facilitator**


- **Rev. Godfrey Adera** – Intergenerational leadership.
- **Nejat oumer**- Strategic advocacy for interventions.
- **Thabani Sibanda** – Personal and digital branding.
- **Seth Naicker** - Mentoring young people into leadership.

## **Professional Branding Support**

Taking professional photos.

**Facilitator**

Photographer



---

**Time:** 13:00 - 14:00

**Lunch & Informal Networking**

Light lunch and informal mingling among participants and invited guests.

---

**Time:** 14:00 - 15:30

**Movie session: Getting real with our faith**

Screening of a short film followed by facilitated discussion on an intergenerational dialogue of faith leaders addressing pressing issues of young people.

**Facilitator**

Gad & Lillian /Selom & Yao

---

**Time:** 15:30 - 16:30

**Tea Break**

Short break with refreshments.

---

**Time:** 16:30 - 17:30

**Initiate drafting of the youth statement**

Youth begin collectively drafting a statement reflecting their priorities, demands, and proposed actions.

**Facilitator**

Sheenan Mbau/ Becky Mayabi/ Comms

---

**Time:** 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

**Welcoming Dinner**

An opportunity for everyone to meet, network, and get basic information on the convention layout and logistics.

# DAY 1 AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Time: 07:00 - 8:20

## Breakfast

Time: 08:20 - 8:30

## Morning Devotion - Sheikh Luaba Mangala- Grand Mufti of the DRC



### 08:30 - 10:00: Official opening

#### Official opening - Welcome remarks:

**Session moderator** – **Peter K. Munene** – CEO, Faith to Action Network

- **Doug Fountain** – Member Faith to Action Network Supervisory Council - CCIH
- **Emma Röhrig** – Brot für die Welt
- **Dr. Tri Hastuti Nur R, M.Si**, Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta
- **Peter Svensson** – ACT Church of Sweden

#### Plenary session I

#### Leveraging on the women and youth population: scores, misses and opportunities

Keynote address: UNFPA (TBC)

Panel:

- **Ngwenya Nonkululeko Prudence** - Director, African Union's Women, Gender, Development and Youth Directorate (WGDY).
- **Anchalee Kurutach** - Women and Peace Program Coordinator, International Network of Engaged Buddhists.
  - Regional Network for Peace Builders: fostering intra- and interfaith collaboration and empowering women peacebuilders.
- **Honorable Demba Keita** - National Assembly of Senegal.
  - Partnership with legislators in advocacy and policy change.
- **Grethe Petersen** - Amplify Change.
  - Building partnerships between faith and faith neutral agencies for greater impact.

#### Session moderator

Peter K. Munene - CEO, Faith to Action Network

Time: 10:00 - 10:30

## Health break



### 10:30 - 12:30: Parallel Sessions

#### Track 1: Women/Gender Justice

#### Interfaith Approaches: Sacred Texts, Gender, and Human Rights

The session will seek to explore the role of sacred texts in promoting or challenging gender justice. The session will share case studies on progressive religious interpretations

### **Objective**

Critically examine how sacred texts across faith traditions have been used to both reinforce and challenge gender hierarchies, identifying leverage points for gender justice.

- **Promote Inclusivity:** Identify doctrinal, institutional, and sociocultural factors that impede or enable progressive interpretation and uptake, for inclusion and gender justice.
- **Explore Intersectionality:** Examine the intersections of gender with race, class, religion, and other identities to understand the diverse experiences and challenges faced by marginalized groups.
- **Promote Dialogue:** Facilitate dialogue on how sacred texts across faith traditions have been used to both reinforce and challenge gender hierarchies, identifying leverage points for gender justice.

### **Panelists:**

- **Rev Dr Uzoaku J. Williams** (CAN/ Presbyterian Church of Nigeria) - Christian perspectives on gender justice and Human rights
- **Sheikh Lethome** - (SUPKEM) - Muslims perspective on Gender justice and Human rights
- **Tri Hastuti Nur (Muhammadiyah)** - Perspectives on women rights in Indonesia



## **Track 2: Family Health & wellbeing (SRHR)**

### **Panel Discussion: 1:**

#### **Understanding Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights - Context and Trends**

The session is meant to give an overview on understanding SRHR hence will explore new knowledge, current updates, best practices, success stories, and innovative approaches from different religious individuals, communities and organizations that have effectively promoted SRHR, gender equality, and reproductive justice within their contexts.

### **Objective**

- **Promote Understanding:** Enhance participants' understanding of the concept of SRHR, including from faith angles. Reflections will include the principles, challenges, and importance of upholding SRHR for individuals and communities.
- **Empower Advocacy:** Empower participants to become advocates for SRHR within their religious communities by equipping them with knowledge, tools, and strategies to engage in meaningful conversations, challenge stigma, and promote rights-based approaches to sexual and reproductive health.
- **Facilitate Dialogue:** Provide a platform for open and respectful dialogue among participants from different faith traditions to share perspectives, beliefs, and experiences related to sexuality, reproduction, and health within the context of their religious teachings.

### **Moderator:**

- **Akiyama Maki**-UNESCO

### **Panelists:**

- **Hope Dunira**- Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust) - Access to ASRH services.
- **Jacky Kisia** - Kenya Ministry of Health - SRH National coordinator - Emerging trends in SRHR and anticipated challenges.
- **Adjegan Kafui Ayaovi da Silveira**- Association des Eglises Evangeliques du Benin - Gender Equity and SRHR: Addressing gender-based disparities in access to SRHR
- **Remmy Shawa (UNESCO)** – The power of Reframing in accelerating acceptance and uptake of CSE



## **Track 3: Peaceful & Inclusive Communities**

### **Faith and coexistence: Re-reading texts to build peaceful coexistence**

This session will explore how sacred texts from the Bible, Quran, and other traditions can be re-interpreted to promote peace, tolerance, interfaith collaboration/partnership and human dignity.

### **Objective**

- To re-emphasize sacred texts as tools for dialogue, peace, tolerance, and human dignity.
- To understand how sacred texts support interfaith collaboration/partnership

### **Moderator:**

- **Zena Hassan** -JISRA Kenya

### **Panelists:**

- **Awed Jibril**- Ethiopian Muslims Relief and Development Association (EMRDA)- Using texts to promote interfaith collaboration
- **Elder Ambassador Justina**- Justice Peace and Reconciliation Movement - Holy scriptures in promoting interfaith dialogue and education
- **Ezra Chitando**- F2AN- African Proverbs for Peaceful Coexistence
- **Rev Sasaka**- Chemi Chemi Ya Ukweli - Christianity and Peace. The Kenyan context.

**Time:** 12:30 - 14:00

**Lunch Break**



## 14:00 - 15:30: Parallel Sessions

### Track 1: Women/Gender Justice

#### Experiential Sharing: Personal Journeys of Women in Leadership

The session will seek to inspire action by sharing stories of women who have attained positions that have been male dominated. To highlight examples of strategies adopted to achieve success as well as challenges faced.

#### Objective

- **Raise Awareness:** Increase awareness and understanding of gender issues, including gender inequality, women's empowerment, gender diversity, and gender-based violence, within religious communities and society at large.
- **Empower Women:** Empower women and girls by highlighting their leadership, contributions, and agency within religious contexts, and showcasing examples of women's empowerment and activism.
- **Inspire Advocacy:** Inspire participants to become advocates, allies, and champions for gender equality and social justice within their faith communities and broader society.

#### Moderator:

- **Ulfat Masibo** (Kadhi's Court)

#### Panelists:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • <b>Thabani Ncude</b> - World YWCA                            | • <b>Elder Amb. Justina Mike Ngwobia</b><br>(Women Peace Builders Network in Nigeria (WOPEN)) |
| • <b>Rtd. Bishop Dr. Catherine Mutua</b> -<br>Methodist Church | • <b>Hening Palan</b> (Muhammadiyah)  |

## Track 2: Family Health & wellbeing (SRHR)

#### Transforming Norms: Faith leaders' interventions transforming social norms affecting uptake of SRH services and information in communities.

#### Session Objective

- Share learnings on norms transformation initiatives that work
- Share tools and methodologies for measuring norm changes
- Faith and culture interaction in shifting norms affecting ASRH
- The future of norms transformation for SRHR

#### Moderator:

- **Ms. Alinda Bosch**-F2AN

**Panelists:**

- **Sheena Mbau** (F2AN) - Interfaith Adolescent Health Hub - Sharing research
- **Passainte Beshay** (Rock Center) - Faith and Social Norms within MENA regions
- **Prof. Tom Ondicho** (UON) - Methodologies and tools for measuring Norms change within communities
- **Lennox R. Mwabaya** (Rabai Cultural Center) - Why cultural sensitivity is crucial in SRHR - Kaya elder perspective 5-Nancy Njoki (Girl effect) - Sharing research on Transforming Norms

**Track 3: Peaceful & Inclusive Communities**

**Words that heal faith leaders confronting structural violence**

The session will seek to explore the role of faith actors in healing communities affected by violence and injustice. How faith actors' voices can serve as instruments of healing and justice.

**Objective**

- To highlight restorative discourses and concrete community commitments.
- To share examples of alternative narratives used to promote healing and justice.

**Moderator:**

- **Ayoko Bahun Wilson**-F2AN

**Panelists:**

- **Rev Stephen Anyenda**- Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics - Role of faith actors in healing communities affected by violence and injustice
- **Rev Uzoakwu Williams-Women** Wing Christian Association of Nigeria- How faith actors' voices can serve as instruments of healing and justice.
- **Jihad Keno**- EIFDDA - Confronting Trauma from conflict- Lessons from Ethiopia

**Time:** 15:30 - 16:00

**Health Break**

**16:00 - 17:30: Parallel Sessions**

**Track 1: Women/Gender Justice**

**Getting Real with Faith –Open live session: Faith and Gender Identity**

The session will explore inclusive theologies and intersections of gender, race, class & other identities.

### **Objective**

- **Promote Dialogue:** Facilitate open and respectful dialogue among participants from different faith traditions to discuss and explore diverse perspectives on gender, sexuality, and identity.
- **Promote Inclusivity:** Promote inclusivity, diversity, and non-discrimination based on gender identity, expression, and orientation within religious spaces and practices.
- **Explore Intersectionality:** Examine the intersections of gender with race, class, religion, and other identities to understand the diverse experiences and challenges faced by marginalized groups.

### **Moderator:**

- **Doug Fountain** (CCIH)

### **Panelists:**

- **Lizflorina Kibaara-YW4A-** Inua Mama Mjane - Generational and cultural tensions - Perspectives on gender identity.
- **Rev. Godfrey Adera-** ACK - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and religious leadership
- **Anchalee Kurutach-** International Network of Engaged Buddhist - Faith and Gender Identity.
- **Carolyne Omollo-** Cosmopolitan Affirming Community - Faith Doctrine & Human Dignity

## **Track 2: Family Health & wellbeing (SRHR)**

### **Exhibition Market: A marketplace of Ideas and Solutions on SRHR**

The “Exhibition Market” is a dynamic session designed to serve as a collaborative platform where stakeholders in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) will come together to share and explore innovative ideas, practices, and solutions. The session aims to drive progress in SRHR by harnessing collective knowledge, creativity, and collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

### **Objective**

- **Showcase Innovations** - Present a diverse range of innovative ideas and solutions related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- **Facilitate Networking** - Create opportunities for participants to network and collaborate
- **Encourage Knowledge Sharing:** Promote the exchange of best practices and lessons learned among participants to improve SRHR strategies and interventions.
- **Identify Gaps and Opportunities:** Engage participants in discussions to identify existing gaps in SRHR services and explore potential solutions to address these challenges.

**Moderator:**

- **Christine Alfons** (SEF)

**Panelists:**

- **Mohammed Bun Bida** (Muslim family planning counselling services)
- **Yvette N'Tamon Edichi**, (ARSIP) – The urgent need for communication between couples and parents to accelerate elimination of GBV in Africa: Engaging religious leaders and traditional institutions
- **Amminadab K. John** (Liberia Council of Churches) – Ending Early marriages and Gender based violence



### Track 3: Peaceful & Inclusive Communities

#### Mosques, temples, churches: safe spaces for conflict prevention

This session explores how places of worship can serve key roles in peacebuilding amid emerging conflicts.

**Objective**

- To visualize community aspirations for sacred spaces.
- Share examples of places of worship serving as safe sanctuaries for victims of conflict.

**Moderator:**

- **Hassan Kulundu**-SUPKEM

**Panelists:**

- **Lennox R. Mwabaya** (Rabai Cultural Center) - African Traditional Religion as a pillar for peace
- **Rev Lawson**- Methodist Church Of Togo- The church as a safe space during conflict
- **Hening Parlan**- Muhammadiyah- Places of worship can serving in peacebuilding -A case from Tenarte



**17:30 - 18:00:**

**Side event Regional meeting of policy makers West-Africa & East-Africa**

**Chair:** Ayoko Bahun Wilson

**Time:** 18:00

**Networking/socializing**

# DAY 2 AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Time: 07:00 - 8:20

## Breakfast

Time: 08:20 - 8:30

## Morning Devotion



### 08:30 - 10:00: Plenary Session II

**Funding – changing landscapes, global trends: experiences, challenges and opportunities**

Panel:

- **Mark Chataway** - Managing Partner, Global Health Practice
  - **Changing landscapes & new funding models**
  - Global trends: experiences, challenges and opportunities
- **Cath Thompson** - PSFG
  - **US and Foundation-based funding opportunities for peace**
  - Global trends: experiences, challenges and opportunities
- **Semiha Abdulmelik Ali** - Open Society Foundation
  - **Funding for transformative peace**
  - Global trends: experiences, challenges and opportunities

#### Session moderator

Doug Fountain, Executive Director - CCIH

Time: 10:00 - 10:30

## Health break



### 10:30 - 12:30: Parallel Sessions

#### Track 1: Women/Gender Justice

**World Café Methodology - Transforming Masculinities in Faith-Based Contexts**

The session will explore how to leverage positive masculinity to accelerate the achievement of gender justice.

### **Objectives**

- **Raise Awareness:** Increase awareness and understanding of gender issues, including gender inequality, women's empowerment, gender diversity, and gender-based violence, within religious communities and society at large.
- **Build Partnerships:** Foster partnerships and collaborations between faith-based organizations, cultural and religious leaders, men and boys to collectively work towards gender justice, equality, and social change.

### **Moderator:**

- **Yilma Boru** (EIFDDA)

### **Panelists:**

- **Imam Khalifa** (Muslims for Progressive Values) - Theological reframing of masculinity
- **Ani Zonnevald** (Muslims for Progressive Values) – Positive Masculinity in leadership and service.
- **Rev.Seth Naicker** (Heartlines) – Engaging men and boys in shifting harmful social and cultural norms.
- **Bishop Dr. Elphas Abayo** (NEOA) – Religious actors driving Positive and Restorative positive masculinity in communities.



## **Track 2: Family Health & wellbeing (SRHR)**

### **SMART Advocacy in SRHR: Strategies for Policy Change**

This session will explore innovative approaches to advocacy in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), emphasizing the role of digital platforms, faith voices, and collaborative efforts in shaping policy. The session will feature four distinguished speakers who will share insights on current advocacy trends, the importance of faith leaders in policy formulation, and strategies to achieve family planning goals by 2030.

- **Objectives:**
- **Enhance Understanding of Digital Advocacy-** equip participants with knowledge on utilizing digital platforms for effective advocacy in SRHR.
- **Analyse Current Advocacy Trends** - Provide insights into the evolving landscape of gender and SRHR advocacy, identifying key players and emerging strategies.
- **Highlight the importance of faith leaders** in policy formulation and equip them with tools to advocate effectively for SRHR.

### **Moderator:**

- **Dr. Alinda Bosch-F2AN**

### **Speakers:**

- **Caroline Kwamboka**- Africa renaissance- SMART advocacy through digital platforms
- **Peter Svenssob**- ACoS
- **Scholar Kaaria (F2AN)**- Faith voices in policy formulation at regional and national level
- **Twambilire Mwabungulu**- FP2030 – Addressing Challenging topics with faith actors
- **Azenath Okemwa**- YW4A-Presentation of the Youth convention statement

## **i Track 3: Peaceful & Inclusive Communities**

### **Connecting young people towards a culture of Peace**

This session explores how young people use social platforms to promote peace and mobilize communities. The power of viral narratives and digital activism in peacebuilding.

### **Objective**

- To celebrate digital innovation and amplify youth voices online.
- To demonstrate the power of social media on young people and its impact on peace.

### **Moderator:**

- **Anne Kwakkenbos** - Cordaid

### **Panelists:**

- **Nejat Mehdi**-Secretary, Women of Faith Network Ethiopia - Meaningful engagement of young Women in peace building
- **2. Paul Nondo**- AfriVision-From Screens to Actions- using social media for Justice
- **Khamis Mwatondo**-KMYA Youth Movement building for peace

---

**Time:** 12:30 - 14:00

**Lunch Break**

---



## 14:00 - 15:30: Parallel Sessions

### Track 1: Women/Gender Justice

#### Panel Discussion: – Faith Leaders as Advocates for Gender Justice

The session will seek to highlight how to effectively engage faith leaders in gender and health programming. - Faith leader voices on a faith engagement toolkit for advocacy and programming.

#### Objective

- **Inspire Advocacy:** Encourage participants to become advocates, allies, and champions for gender equality and social justice within their faith communities and broader society.
- **Build Partnerships:** Exchange how to foster partnerships and collaborations between faith-based organizations, NGOs, activists, and community groups to collectively work towards gender justice, equality, and social change.
- **Promote Dialogue:** Facilitate open and respectful dialogue among participants from different faith traditions to discuss and explore diverse perspectives on gender, sexuality, and identity
- **Raise awareness** on the value and place of evidence and reference instruments in advocacy

#### Moderator:

- Thabani Ncube (Switzerland)

#### Panelists:

- **Rev.Mercy Manzini-** CAIC WOMEN'S MINISTRY - Addressing sexual abuse and safeguarding within faith institutions
- **Rev. Rodny Said-** ELCHLJ – Faith institution participation in national policy changes
- **Rev.Jacob Musili-** AIC - Interfaith Collaboration for SRHR Advocacy
- **Imam Refat Juma-** SSD- Islamic Council) – Faith actors on decision making tables
- **Bishop Cyrus Mugo-** NICA – Faith institutional policy changes



## **Track 2: Family Health & wellbeing (SRHR)**

### **YEMAYA HEALTH- EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF FAITH ACTORS**

About the session: How to effectively engage faith leaders in gender and health programming-Faith leader voices on a faith engagement toolkit that works

#### **Objective**

- Share the Faith Leaders' Engagement Toolkit
- Receive input into the toolkit from regional and international faith communities
- Create ownership of the toolkit among faith leaders

#### **Intended outcomes**

- Empowerment of faith leaders in their engagement with health actors
- Strengthened partnerships between faith actors and health systems.

#### **Session led:**

- **Josephine Ogaja** - YEMAYA Health

#### **Session Facilitator:**

- **Bishop Njenga Joseph** - YEMAYA Health

## **Track 3: Peaceful & Inclusive Communities**

### **Evidence and research**

This session will highlight the critical role of faith actors in strengthening peacebuilding processes and defending human rights.

#### **Objective**

- Share practical examples of how faith actors contribute to peacebuilding at community, national, and regional levels.
- Examine key challenges faced by faith actors in promoting peace, including issues of religious intolerance, violent extremism, and human rights abuses.
- Explore opportunities to enhance collaboration, resilience, and advocacy efforts by faith leaders in advancing inclusive and sustainable peace.

#### **Moderator:**

- **Neema Nyaundi**-F2AN

#### **Panelists:**

- **Ezra Chitando**- F2AN - The role of religious leaders in Peacebuilding
- **Mengiste Rebosso**-TearFund- Secularism and FoRB
- **Hassan Kulundu**- SUPKEM- A case of How the Criminal Justice System Responds to Religious Extremism

**Time:** 15:30 - 16:00

**Health Break**

## 16:00 - 17:30: Parallel Sessions

### Track 1: Women/Gender Justice

#### Genz's Voice: Meaningful engagement of young people at decision-making tables:

This panel discussion aims to explore the vital role of young people in decision-making processes that impact their lives strategies for enhancing youth engagement and ensuring that young voices are heard and valued. This session brings together diverse young women, including youth leaders from different countries to share experiences, lesson learnt and best practices

#### **Objective**

- Highlight Youth Perspectives - Share personal stories and experiences from young leaders about their involvement in decision-making processes.
- Identify Barriers - Discuss the challenges young people face in accessing decision-making tables, including systemic barriers and societal perceptions.
- Explore Best Practices - Showcase successful initiatives and models of youth engagement that can be replicated in various contexts.
- Collaboratively identify actionable strategies and recommendations to enhance youth participation in decision-making.

#### **Moderator:**

- Nagwa Botros- (F2AN)

#### **Round table Discussants:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • <b>Mercy Kendi</b> – (NICA) Faith actors' perspective                 | • <b>Mirriam Syamakata</b> (MedRAP) – Zambia experience     |
| • <b>Christine Alfonse</b> (Self Engage Foundation) – Kenyan Experience | • <b>Berndeta Hipaingba</b> (YW4A) - South Sudan experience |
| • <b>Nejat Mehdi</b> – Ethiopian experience                             | • <b>Maya Maher</b> (ELCHLJ) - Palestine experience         |
| • <b>Mariam Shenouda Rizk</b> (Blooming Rose) - Egypt experience        |   |

## **Track 2: Family Health & wellbeing (SRHR)**

**Ethical and Religious Perspectives: Navigating the complex ethical and religious views on SRHR.**

**What does your faith say?**

the session will explore the role of faith and interpretation of religious texts in promoting access to SRHR. - it will Feature Faith leaders and scholars sharing perspectives on SRH, FP and health within their faith traditions, including progressive interpretations of sacred texts, Reflection on the intersection of religious teachings and SRHR advocacy

### **Action Planning and Next Steps**

- Interactive session for participants to discuss action plans, commitments, and collaborations to continue the conversation and implement SRHR initiatives post-conference
- Identification of key takeaways, strategies, and resources for the conference declaration and advancing SRHR within interfaith contexts

### **Moderator:**

- **Christine Alfonse-SEF**

### **Speakers:**

- **Rev Mary Mwangi** (NCKK) –Youth faith leaders' voices on SRRH
- **Mercy Mabel** (Episcopal Church) - Faith voices on SRRH
- **Imam Macleans Mwewa** (Kazungula Muslim Association Ameer) - The role of faith leaders on SRHR promotion
- **Mirriam Syamataka** (- The role of Traditional healers in Zambia

## **Track 3: Peaceful & Inclusive Communities**

**Faith, Facts, and Algorithms: Navigating Religious Disinformation and Artificial Intelligence for Social Justice**

The session will explore how youth activists and faith actors can collaborate to build inclusive peace campaigns. Uniting spirituality with movements and values-driven social change

### **Objective**

- To build negotiation, listening, and collaborative strategy skills
- To share how youth are drivers of peace

### **Moderator:**

- **Matthias Brucker-** F2AN

### **Speakers:**

- **Ayoko Bahun-** F2AN- Wilson The rise of religious disinformation
- **Yao Amega and Selom Eklou-** F2AN- showcase a faith-rooted communication campaign in Togo
- **Gad Opondo and Lilian Karanja-** F2AN

**Time:** 18:00

**Networking/socializing**

# DAY 3 AT A GLANCE

Thursday, September 25, 2025

---

**Time:** 07:00 - 8:20

**Breakfast**

---

**Time:** 08:20 - 8:30

**Morning Devotion**-Rev Rodny Said

---

## **08:30 - 10:00: Plenary Session III**

### **Addressing challenging topics with faith actors - the platter Panel**

The sessions will seek to share enlightenment on emerging issues and trends and their impact to interventions of faith communities while illuminating faith actors' pathways of engagement/ responses.

#### Panel:

- **Nejat Mehdi**- Secretary, Women of Faith Network – the Role of youth in Transforming Gender Norms
- **Prof. Ezra Chitando**- Knowledge Management Advisor – Faith to Action Network - Faith and the changing diversity of family & marriage structures
- **Twambilire Mwabungulu**- FP2030 Advocacy and Partnerships Manager, Faith & FP
- **Rick van der Woud**- Directeur / Chief Executive Officer - Mensen met een Missie: "To take or not take sides during conflicts – the dilemma of faith actors"

#### Moderator

- **Dr. Neneng Yanti**- Fatayat Nahdatul Ulamaa

---

**Time:** 10:00 - 10:30

**Health break**

---



## 10:30 – 12:30 Parallel Sessions

### Track 1: Women/Gender Justice

#### Panel discussion: The evolving structures of Family and Marriage - The Faith perspective

These topics reflect the complexities and evolving nature of marriage and family structures in contemporary society.

Addressing these issues can foster deeper understanding and dialogue among diverse communities, particularly in the context of interfaith and intercultural discussions.

#### Objective

- Discuss the changing structure of family and marriage
- Explore faith perspectives on the changing structure of family and marriage – single parent households, same gender marriage,
- Faith positions on adaptation of communities to the evolving structure of family and marriage

#### The discussion to feature experts sharing on the following issues:

- Overview of laws impacting marriage, divorce, and family rights
- Helping Parents Navigate Uncomfortable Talks at Home - Best Practices and Lessons learnt
- Fertility and Sexual Reproductive Health
- Dealing with Intimate partner violence (IPV) within the religious circle
- Addressing child marriage through faith spaces.
- Faith and Fertility: Is infertility an issue in Kenya? The faith perspective, Challenges and Support

#### Moderator:

- Ulfat Masibo (Kadhi's Court)

#### Panelists:

- **Moses Afuhair** - UG - Divorce, separation and redefining family stability - attitudes towards divorce and how we define healthy families
- **Pamhidzai Thaka** - SA - Gender roles and power dynamics in families - shifting gender roles reshaping expectations in marriage and parenting
- **Tri Hastuti Nur**- Muhammadiyah - Faith Culture and evolving family norms - How do religious teachings adopt/resist changes in family forms - single, blended, childfree, same sex?
- **Sheikh Ibrahim Lithome**- Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims - redefining marriage in contemporary societies - Is marriage still the central foundation for family life; are alternative partnerships valid?

## **Track 2: Family Health & wellbeing (SRHR)**

### **Future directions for the Network: Interfaith collaboration for SRHR: Developing a unified voice for advocacy on SRHR**

This topic focuses on the importance of uniting diverse faith groups to advocate for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services through the different strategies that will be addressed by the speakers. This initiative recognizes that faith communities can play a pivotal role in shaping attitudes, policies, and practices surrounding SRHR. By developing a unified voice, these groups can address common challenges, promote understanding, and advocate for the rights of individuals to access necessary health services.

#### **Objectives**

- **Foster Understanding** - enhance understanding of SRHR issues within different faith contexts and promote dialogue on how faith can support health rights.
- **Identify Common Ground** - identify shared values and beliefs among various stakeholders' groups that can serve as a foundation for collaboration on SRHR advocacy.
- **Strengthen Networks** - to strengthen networks among faith leaders, young people and advocates to facilitate ongoing collaboration and support for SRHR initiatives.
- **Presentation of the Youth convention statement** and Establishment of a youth regional hub

#### **Moderator:**

- **Dolphine Kwamboka-YW4A**

#### **Panelists:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • <b>Peter Svensson</b> - (Act Church of Sweden) - Interfaith Regional hubs as best practice                 | • <b>Beina Evaline</b> (World YWCA) - Movement and coalition building (YW4A experience) |
| • <b>Youth subcommittee representative</b> - Meaningful youth engagement for successful interfaith movements | • <b>Jeries Saeed</b> (ELCHLJ) - Interfaith collaboration in policy advocacy            |

### **Track 3: Peaceful & Inclusive Communities**

#### **From the shadows to recognition: repositioning women as pillars of lasting peace**

The session will seek to explore elevation of women to central positions in peacebuilding. Structural recognition of women as key decision-makers and ensuring their participation in every stage of the peace process

#### **Objective**

- To learn and share about women participation and roles in peace building.

#### **Moderator:**

- Neneng Yanti

#### **Panelists:**

- **Azizat Amoloye Adebayo** (Nigeria)
- **Shemona Moonilal** (Ethiopia) - Intersection of gender equity and peace
- **Anne Kwakkenbos** (Netherlands) – WPS Agenda & Faith actors

**Time:** 12:30 - 14:00

### **Lunch Break**

### **14:00 - 15:30: Parallel Sessions:**

- **Faith to Action Network's Bi-annual Members Meeting**
- Other bilateral Sessions

**Time:** 15:30 - 16:00

### **Health Break**

**Time:** 16:00 - 18:00

### **Awards and closing ceremony**

**Change Agents Excellence Awards Africa 2025 / Gala Night**

**Dress code:** African Cultural Attire / Dinner Wear