



World Council
of Churches



UNAIDS

Interfaith Affirmations on HIV Premarital Testing and Disclosure

Abuja-Nigeria, 10-12 June 2024

We, the undersigned interfaith leaders, PLHIV and other stakeholders, gathered at the Consultation and Conversation activity on 10-12 June, 2024 organised by Nigeria Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV/AIDS (NINERELA+) and World Council of Churches (WCC) with UNAIDS, recognising the importance of addressing HIV within the faith communities, affirm our commitment to ensuring a supportive environment that respects the dignity and health of all individuals.

This document outlines a collective agreement on the practices of premarital HIV testing and disclosure, aimed at enhancing HIV prevention, reducing stigma and discrimination, thereby promoting health and well-being.

Affirmations:

- We affirm that HIV premarital testing should not be made compulsory but encouraged;
- We affirm that HIV premarital testing should be done early enough in consideration of the window period;
- We affirm that disclosure of one's HIV status should be voluntary and not forced on intending couples. And that disclosure is an individual's choice, the person has a choice of whom, where and when to disclose. Hence, such an individual should not be compelled or coerced;
- We affirm our dedication to continued education of communities about HIV prevention, testing, and treatment, creating an environment for knowledge and empowerment;
- We affirm our role in providing faith-based guidance that aligns with the provisions of the law while supporting the health and well-being of faith communities; and
- We affirm commitment towards zero HIV stigma and discrimination in faith communities by the year 2030 in line with the global targets; ensuring commitment to **confidentiality** of test results when voluntarily disclosed.

Messages on HIV premarital testing

- As people of faith, we are called to love and protect one another, therefore in preparing for marriage, seeking voluntary premarital counselling on HIV and AIDS is a responsible and loving act;
- Voluntary premarital counselling on HIV and AIDS is an essential step in the life long journey that marriage represents;
- Faith communities encourage us to strengthen our bond with knowledge and faith through voluntary premarital testing;
- Marriage is a sacred covenant, and entering into it with knowledge and responsibility is a witness to our faiths;
- Get tested, know your status and sustain your love; and
- The effectiveness of HIV interventions today allows families where one member is living with HIV, to have safe pregnancies and birth.

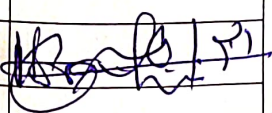
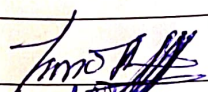



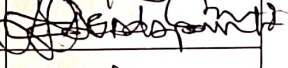
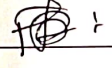
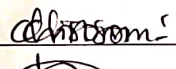


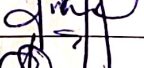
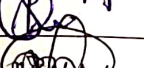
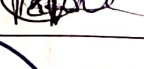
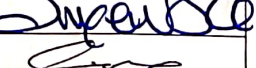
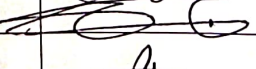
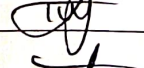
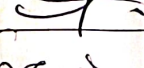


Handwritten signatures and dates:
BISHOP MICHAEL AKPA
12/06/2024
PAT M. O. OGBURN
12/06/2024
H/RH SHEIKH PR
12/06/2024
Imam Fued Adegemi
12/06/2024



ACTIVITY TITLE: TRAINING: testing the testing: HIV pre-marital testing and HIV disclosure Why and How?

S/N	NAME	ORGANISATION/DESIGNATION	SIGN
1	PAT MATEMILOLA	DTML; BOT	
2	BISHOP MIKE AKPAMU	NINERELA + BOT CHAIRMAN	
3	DANESI ISMAEEL	ALFIAHAN	
4	Osazee Erinnwinke	Church	
5	IMAM FUAD ADEYEMI	AL-HABIBIYYAH	
6	Imam Abdul Ganiyu Hadiza	Foamnam	
7	Abdullahi Sadiq Muhammad	JNI	
8	ANYATHURU ADAM-12	NINERELA+ BOARD MEMBER	
9	Alhaji Turimisiya Salamu	NINERELA+ Board member	
10	Rev. Dr. John Ayo Oladapo	NINERELA+ Board	
11	Ven. Dr. Moses O. Ogbidike	NINERELA+ Board Sec.	
12	Pst. Abraham Success Andrew	REHOBOTH	
13	Pst Ben Ayegbe	NEW HOPE	
14	Esther James	ASWOTAN	
15	Pst Amin O. Igwegbe	BOT member	
16	Inaba Uleko Alice	CIHP / PMCT Associate	
17	Amber Erinnwinke	NINERELA+	

**ACTIVITY TITLE: TRAINING: testing the testing: HIV pre-marital testing and HIV disclosure
Why and How?**

S/N	NAME	ORGANISATION/DESIGNATION	SIGN
(1)	HRH ^(DR) SHICKHIBRAHIM Yusuf	Religious SP Traditional leader	
(2)	Rev. Timothy I. Amagam	FCGN CHAIRMAN	
(3)	Rev. Dr. Ibrahim W. Yusuf	WCC Africa office Abuja	
4	Adeside Brogum	CCN	
5	Adeyemi Osemi	CCN	
6	Bamidele A. Jacobs	Lawyers Abuja	
7	Dr Fanan Abigail Gire	NINERELA STATE COORDINATOR	
8	Chisom Onyemara U.	CCN	
9	Solomon - O. Ujor	ASHWAN	
10	Ebere Umegwunne	ICW WA	
11	YUSUF SAIDU MOHAMMED	JNT / Admin. Officer	
12	Aisha Usman	Ninerela	
13	Rejoree Asan	ICW WA	
14	VERY REV. DR. EVANS ONYEMARA	CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF NIG.	
15	Mallam Musa Emmanuel Ande	NINERELA+	
16	Francis Otagowle	Church	
17	Osarimen Edionwe	Church	
18	Grace Ross	WCC	
19	DAMILOLA NYOLA	UNAIDS	
20	Desmond Aso	NAEA	