



# Interfaith Declaration to Improve Family Health and Well-Being

We, leaders of religious institutions and faith based organisations (FBO), believe that health is a universal value held by all faiths and a universal right for human beings.

Our faith traditions, spiritual values and commitment to social justice lead us to believe passionately that families should not suffer needlessly because they lack access to health services.

We acknowledge the evidence that the health benefits of access to education and services, and thereby averting unintended pregnancies, can be substantial. Each year lack of family planning services and education in developing countries results in an estimated 600,000 newborn deaths; 150,000 maternal deaths from abortion and other pregnancy-related causes; and at least 340,000 children lose their mother.

We recognize the importance of access to information about and services to enable families to plan the timing and spacing of their pregnancies consistent with their faith for family well-being, for achievement of country health targets and to support achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

We respect the choice of families based on their own faith and needs and know that stronger, healthier and thriving families and communities result when couples jointly plan their families.

In this Declaration, we commit to leveraging our networks to support family health by providing education and services that enable families to plan the timing and spacing of their pregnancies consistent with their faith. We call on others to support this initiative to influence government and donor policies and funding.

**Prepared in Nairobi, Kenya, 29th June 2011.**

## **Endorsers (from faith based organisations)**

### **Initial endorsers of declaration:**

African Christian Health Associations Platform

African Council of Religious Leaders — Religions for Peace (ACRL—RfP)

Centre for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilizations (CDCC), Jakarta, Indonesia

Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH), USA

Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK)

Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI)

Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA), Kenya

Hindu Dharma Council of Indonesia

International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research, Al-Azhar University

Islamic Relief Worldwide, UK

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Masjid Council, Bangladesh  
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Muslim Family Counselling Services, Ghana  
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**Additional endorsers of declaration:**

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Centre Medico Social ALOMAR

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Worship Chapel  
Muslim Women In Business

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### **Initial supporters of declaration:**

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DSW and DSW Kenya  
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Women's Health & Advocacy International  
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