



**Gilead COMPASS Initiative® Faith Coordinating Center  
at Wake Forest University School of Divinity**

**NATIONAL FAITH HIV/AIDS  
AWARENESS DAY | AUGUST 29TH**

**FAITH LEADER TOOLKIT**



COMPASS  
INITIATIVE®





## National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day August 29, 2021

Faith plays a major role in the lives of many Americans. Many find faith to be a connection to a spiritual being, deity, or creator. Unfortunately for many Americans living with HIV, faith communities can turn from a place of refuge to a source of stigma and turmoil.

To combat both HIV in America and the associated stigma that sometimes manifests from faith communities, RAHMA ([www.haverahma.org](http://www.haverahma.org)) and its partners spearheaded the first National Faith HIV & AIDS Awareness Day (NFHAAD) on August 27, 2017. The goal was and continues to be to rally all US communities representative of the Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu and Baha'i faiths to take a stand against stigma in their congregations and raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. The inaugural Faith HIV/AIDS Day featured 15 Faith Ambassadors located in 15 major cities around the country that were affected by high incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Advised by a steering committee comprised of leaders from across the nation, the Ambassadors engaged religious leaders in their cities to rally the local community into awareness about the need for allied faith actors in the movement to end HIV as a public health crisis. The targeted cities were New York City, Washington DC, Baltimore, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Houston, Atlanta, Miami, Baton Rouge, Memphis, Charlotte, Columbia, Jackson, Chicago, Cleveland and Philadelphia.

Washington, DC featured the main event in the form of a multifaith prayer walk and rally at Freedom Plaza where faith leaders and activists from around the U.S. spoke out against stigma and educated the audience on how to get involved in creating safe spaces in faith communities. The rally at Freedom Plaza was preceded by a high-level reception at the Human Rights Campaign the night before.

Two key goals for the founding of National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day were to have it recognized on the HIV.gov calendar as an official federal HIV awareness day, and create change in faith communities across the nation, making them safe spaces for those who are living with HIV. Since 2017, [RAHMA](http://www.haverahma.org) and its partners have successfully done both! We've reached over 200,000 people representative of the Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu and Baha'i and other faith traditions across the US to eliminate stigma in their houses of worship and increase awareness about HIV. Likewise, on August 6, 2020 National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was officially recognized as a federal awareness day on [HIV.gov](http://HIV.gov). While we celebrate this significant milestone, we understand there is still much work ahead of us.

This year National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is on August 29, 2021. In recognition of the 40th year since AIDS was discovered and understanding the overwhelming presence of both people living with HIV (PLWH) and people of faith in the Southern region of the United States, through a generous grant from Wake Forest University Gilead COMPASS Initiative Faith Coordinating Center, we have partnered with the Southern AIDS Coalition to produce a video series that captures the voices and experiences of PLWH, people of faith experience, faith leaders, and creatives in the South, through a short documentary-style video. This project aims to create opportunities for dialogue through storytelling to address the challenges inherent in responding to the HIV epidemic in the Southern U.S. as people and communities of faith. Tune in on August 29th at 4 pm EST on [Facebook Live](#) to view the video and discussion to follow.

We invite you to join us as we work together to end HIV stigma in faith communities. We will not stop until faith communities are a safe space for ALL in the U.S.

**One day. Each year. Until we find a cure.**

Won't you join us?!

Sincerely,

**NFHAAD Steering Committee**

Khadijah Abdullah  
Dr. Ulysses Burley III

Pastor William Francis  
Cedric Pulliam, PhD

Elder George Kerr III  
Cary Goodman

David Barstow, PhD  
Reverend Michael D. Schuenemeyer

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to acknowledge RAHMA (Reaching All HIV+ Muslims in America), and its founder, Khadijah Abdullah for founding National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Additionally we would like to thank the NFHAAD Steering Committee. We would also like to acknowledge the Gilead COMPASS Initiative® and Wake Forest University School of Divinity for providing the resources and funding for the Faith Coordinating Center. To all of our funded partners, our advisory board, and our staff, we thank you for making resources like this possible.

McCoy, Demi & Mathews, Allison. (August 2021). National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Faith Leader Toolkit. Gilead COMPASS Initiative Faith Coordinating Center, Wake Forest University.



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# LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

***A letter from Dr. Allison Mathews, Executive Director  
Wake Forest University Faith Coordinating Center***

National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day encourages us to reflect on the role that faith communities play in ending the HIV epidemic. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the epidemic. Now, more than ever, we must activate our faith communities in the name of social justice and love for all humanity.

We have lost millions of lives and there are more than 37 million people living with HIV worldwide. Due to the persistence and advocacy of community members and scientists, we have made significant advancements in HIV prevention and treatment. In the United States, we have built an infrastructure to support people living with HIV/AIDS by providing access to healthcare, housing, transportation, and mental health support. However, we still have a long way to go because stigma continues to challenge our ability to end the HIV epidemic, particularly in the American South.



People living with HIV continue to experience challenges with accessing affordable housing, transportation and healthcare. They experience social isolation and rejection from their family, friends, and faith communities. Black and Brown people from low-income communities remain particularly vulnerable to acquiring HIV – not because they engage in behaviors that are different from their White counterparts, but because they lack access to resources and support. Moreover, attacks on voter and transgender rights and racial injustice exacerbate existing inequities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the reasons why we need to address health inequity head on – for the sake of people from marginalized communities and for the sake of all people. Thanks to advocates, public health professionals, researchers, and physicians who have worked on HIV/AIDS epidemic for the past 40 years, we had the infrastructure, tools, and lessons learned to quickly respond to the critical needs of those affected by COVID-19. *(continued)*

We also saw how coordinated and well-funded collaborations between governmental departments, industry, universities, community-based organizations and faith leaders to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic were able to quickly address health inequities in a way we never have seen for HIV/AIDS. We learned a lot from the HIV/AIDS epidemic that informed our response to COVID-19 and now is the time to use those tools to finally end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

At the Gilead COMPASS Faith Coordinating Center, we recognize that faith leaders play an integral role in challenging harmful stereotypes that have been reinforced by distorted interpretations of scripture and bankrupt theologies. Jonathan Lee Walton, Christian Ethicist and Dean of Wake Forest University School of Divinity, beckons us in his book, *A Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in Its World for Our World*, to be courageous with our words and to adopt a posture of love rooted in justice and compassion.

In a polarizing world, it's this type of ethic for living – one that challenges narrow beliefs and embraces the generosity of love -- that we seek to uplift through the Faith Coordinating Center. We educate and work with faith communities in the South to address HIV-related stigma, especially in Black faith communities, by increasing access to resources and mobilizing leaders to advocate for equity. We all have a responsibility to elevate messages of love and acceptance and challenge anti-Black, anti-gay and misogynistic attitudes. The Center is hosting a series of monthly workshops that are free and open to the public to directly address topics about Black sexuality, acceptance of LGBTQ community members, faith-based trauma-informed care, and HIV/AIDS.

Additionally, we have funded 17 organizations to train faith leaders to integrate conversations about HIV, sexuality, love and acceptance into sermons and programming in faith communities. We are leveraging the power of storytelling through social media engagement, videos, podcasts, and community conversations to trouble traditional narratives about HIV in faith-based spaces. We are training organizations to advocate for more inclusive policies that improve the lives of people affected by HIV/AIDS and we are working to build organizational infrastructures to be sustainable and trauma informed.

As we celebrate National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, we implore community members to stay persistent and for new people to join the fight to end the epidemic! Vote. Pray. Advocate for policy change. Have conversations with your faith leaders. Support your loved ones living with HIV/AIDS. We still have a lot of work to do, but we can't do it without the entire community.



# ABOUT THE TOOLKIT

## About the Toolkit

This toolkit was created by the Gilead COMPASS Initiative® Faith Coordinating Center at Wake Forest University School of Divinity for faith leaders and clergy to utilize on National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day with a central focus on people living with HIV/AIDS. We also hope this resource will equip faith communities with various tools that build their capacity to address HIV/AIDS. It is our sincerest wish to continue to expand this toolkit in the future.

## About the Center

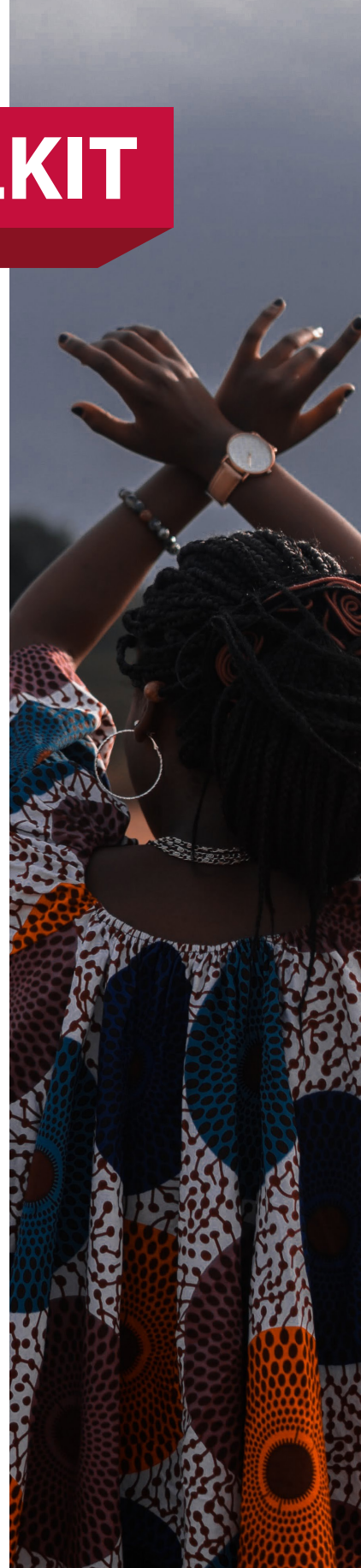
The Gilead COMPASS Initiative® Faith Coordinating Center at Wake Forest University focuses on preparing ministry and nonprofit leaders to address the needs of vulnerable populations such as African Americans and LGBTQ individuals. These groups, particularly in the South, often experience a higher number of cases of HIV/AIDS with access to fewer support and prevention resources. At our center we offer grant funding, training sessions, cohorts, and resources to better equip leaders and communities to transform the story of HIV in the South.<sup>1</sup>

## About the COMPASS Initiative

The Gilead COMPASS (COMmitment to Partnership in Addressing HIV/AIDS in Southern States) Initiative® is an unprecedented more than \$100 million commitment over 10 years to support organizations working to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Southern United States. The South is most affected by the HIV epidemic, accounting for 54% of all new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. In response to the Southern HIV epidemic, COMPASS focuses on providing concentrated investments in the region to reduce HIV-related health disparities, build awareness, advance education, and reduce stigma.<sup>2</sup>

## About Wake Forest University School of Divinity

Wake Forest University School of Divinity is a graduate, professional school that is Christian by tradition, Baptist in heritage, and ecumenical in outlook. Consistent with Wake Forest's commitment to academic excellence and in the spirit of the University motto, Pro Humanitate, the School of Divinity prepares leaders informed by a theological understanding of vocation. Through imaginative courses and diverse programs of community engagement, students are equipped to be agents of justice, reconciliation, and compassion in Christian churches and other ministries.<sup>3</sup>







## OVERVIEW OF NFHAAD

National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is observed with the intention of engaging faith communities to work together for HIV/AIDS education, prevention, treatment, care and support, and to reduce and eliminate stigma and discrimination.<sup>4</sup>

National Faith HIV/AIDS was founded by RAHMA and its partners in 2017 and has reached over 200,000 people representative of the Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, Baha'i and other faith traditions across the US.<sup>5</sup>





# HELPFUL LANGUAGE FOR HIV/AIDS

*"HIV and Language" from POZ.com* 

"Despite tremendous advances in HIV treatment and prevention, HIV-related stigma persists, which is why the language and terms we use to describe HIV and AIDS as well as people living with HIV matter. Certain words can help foster positive attitudes about people living with HIV while other words and phrases we choose can fuel stereotypes, stigma and discrimination.

"People-first language" is one way of reducing stigma because it focuses on the person instead of the person's health status or disability. Rather than use labels to define individuals with health issues, it is more appropriate to use terminology that describes people as having been diagnosed with an illness or disorder. This type of language is often used in other health-related contexts. For example, in the context of diabetes, rather than referring to someone as a "diabetic," it is more appropriate to say "a person living with diabetes." Similarly, instead of referring to a person as "mentally ill," it is more appropriate to say "a person living with a mental health condition" or "a person living with depression."

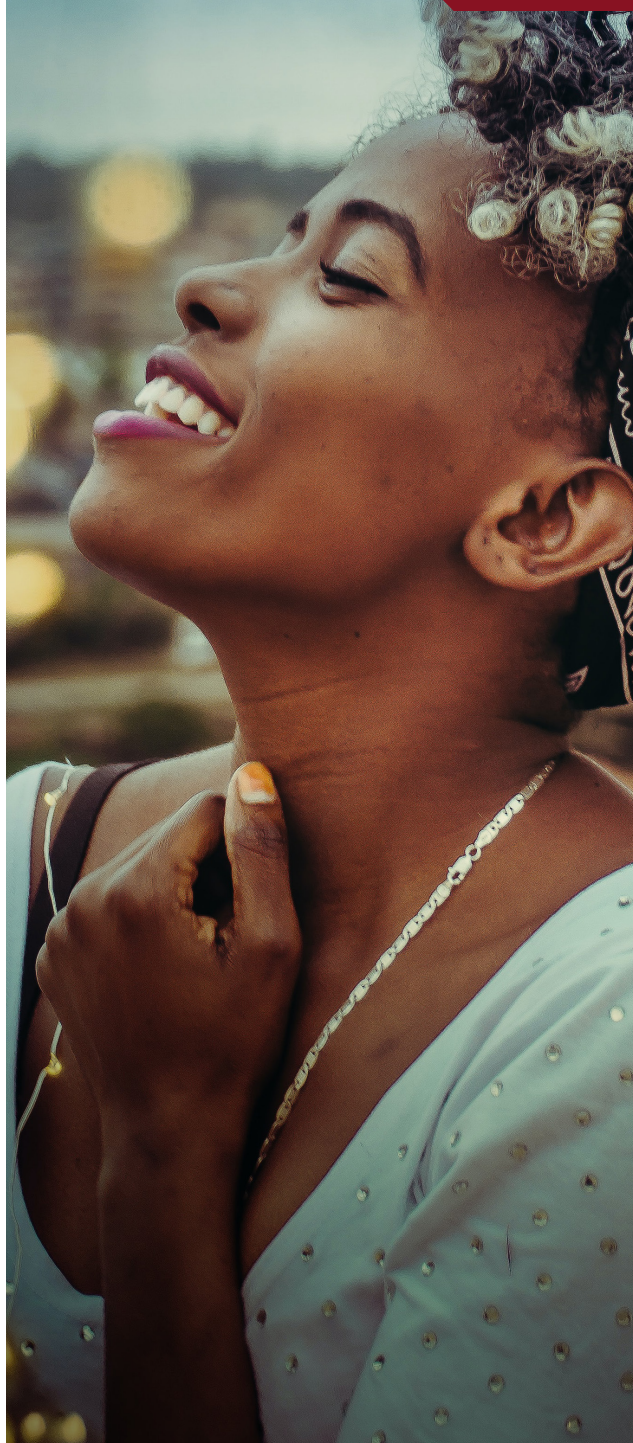
The concept of people-first language was first introduced in 1983 when a group of HIV activists created "The Denver Principles," a self-empowerment manifesto that includes the following:

"We condemn attempts to label us as 'victims,' which implies defeat, and we are only occasionally 'patients,' which implies passivity, helplessness, and dependence upon the care of others. We are 'people with AIDS.'"

Being referred to as "infected" or a "patient" or identified as a disease is exhausting and unnecessary. Emphasizing the individual living with HIV, rather than the virus itself, helps to eliminate generalizations and stereotypes and presents a more respectful portrayal of a person.

The preferred non-stigmatizing language guidelines that follow were created for and by people living with HIV.

[Click here](#) for more info."<sup>6</sup>



# HELPFUL LANGUAGE FOR HIV/AIDS (cont.)

STIGMATIZING LANGUAGE	PREFERRED LANGUAGE
HIV infected person HIV or AIDS patient AIDS or HIV carrier Positives or HIVers	Person living with HIV or PLHIV. Do not use “infected” when referring to a person. Use “people first language,” which emphasizes the person, not their diagnosis
Died of AIDS, to die of AIDS	Died of AIDS-related illness, died of AIDS-related complications or end stage HIV
AIDS virus	HIV (AIDS is a diagnosis not a virus — it cannot be transmitted)
Full-blown AIDS	There is no medical definition for this phrase — simply use the term AIDS, or Stage 3 HIV
HIV virus	This is redundant; use HIV
Zero new infections	Zero new HIV acquisitions or transmissions
HIV infections	HIV transmissions, diagnosed with HIV, PLHIV
HIV infected	Living with or diagnosed with HIV, contracted or acquired HIV
Number of infections	Number diagnosed with HIV, number of HIV acquisitions
Became infected	Contracted, acquired, diagnosed with
HIV-exposed infant	Infant exposed to HIV
Serodiscordant couple	Serodifferent, magnetic or mixed status couple

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# HELPFUL LANGUAGE FOR HIV/AIDS (cont.)

STIGMATIZING LANGUAGE	PREFERRED LANGUAGE
Mother to child transmission	Vertical transmission or perinatal transmission
Victim, innocent victim, sufferer, contaminated, infected	Person living with HIV, survivor, warrior (Do not use 'infected' when referring to a person)
AIDS orphans	Children orphaned by loss of parents/ guardians who died of AIDS related complications
AIDS test	HIV test (AIDS is a diagnosis, there is not an AIDS test)
To catch AIDS, to contract AIDS, transmit AIDS, to catch HIV	An AIDS diagnosis, developed AIDS, to contract HIV (AIDS is a diagnosis, which cannot be passed from one person to the next)
Compliant	Adherent
Prostitute or prostitution	Sex worker, sale of sexual services, transactional sex
Promiscuous	This is a value judgment and should be avoided, instead use "having multiple partners"
Unprotected sex	Condomless sex with PrEP, condomless sex without PrEP, sex not protected by condoms, sex not protected by antiretroviral prevention methods

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# HELPFUL LANGUAGE FOR HIV/AIDS (cont.)

STIGMATIZING LANGUAGE	PREFERRED LANGUAGE
Death Sentence, fatal condition or life-threatening condition	A serious health issue, chronic health condition or manageable health for people who have access to care and treatment
"Tainted" blood; "dirty" needles	Blood containing HIV, shared needles or shared syringes
Clean, as in "I am clean are you?"	Referring to yourself or others as being "clean" suggests that those living with HIV are dirty. Avoid!
"A drug that prevents HIV infection"	A drug that prevents the transmission of HIV
End HIV, End AIDS	End HIV transmission. Be specific: are we ending HIV or AIDS?

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# MIPA

## MIPA = Meaningful Involvement of People Living With HIV

### Overview

MIPA means involving people living with HIV in the work of HIV. As you plan your activities, gatherings, and events for NFHAAD, it is imperative that you have assess who you have at the planning table and who you are working with to make your vision come to life. People living with HIV should be included in your work in meaningful ways. Please familiarize yourself with the resources and toolkit below to develop a better understanding of MIPA and how you can incorporate MIPA into your NFHAAD work.

### Resources

Embodying Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV: Putting the Pieces Together [!\[\]\(d66ff64371a51729ac8c1cdaa685ba6f\_img.jpg\)](#)

Meaningful Involvement of People with HIV/AIDS (MIPA) [!\[\]\(e3f8612927870f2e0f9f5989e6dd3064\_img.jpg\)](#)

AIDS United [!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f\_img.jpg\)](#)

POZ [!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1\_img.jpg\)](#)



# RESOURCES

**Health Ministry**

**Liturgical Resources**

**Additional Outside Resources**

# RESOURCES

## Health Ministry

### Sample Church Announcement

You may consider inviting a person living with HIV to share their testimony before calling others to action for NFHAAD

Sample text:

What has God called you to do for social justice? Jesus was the manifestation of social justice and we are all called to be like Jesus. He treated all those around him, especially those who were socially marginalized, with fairness, generosity, compassion, and love. On August 29, in honor of National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, we challenge each of you to learn more about HIV/AIDS in our community, become advocates for social justice to end the HIV epidemic, and pray for the healing of all those affected by the epidemic.

### Sample Activities for Health Ministry

- HIV education workshops for faith community and larger community
- Congregation-based HIV testing

### Ways to Get More Involved as a Faith Community

- support candid institutional and community dialogue about sexual and reproductive health
- host HIV/AIDS discussions in settings outside of my faith gathering space
- create an HIV/AIDS ministry
- utilize social media outlets to reach community members with HIV/AIDS prevention and education messages
- engage the media (e.g., TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, blogs) in HIV/AIDS awareness
- work with other faith leaders on HIV/AIDS campaigns
- convene regular meetings of diverse, interfaith leaders to discuss HIV/AIDS

# RESOURCES

## Health Ministry

### **Sample Congregational Declaration Against HIV stigma<sup>10</sup>**

*Note: You can customize for your faith community.*

- We resolve to discuss the issue in community gatherings;
- We agree to disclose our HIV status with the knowledge that we will have support from our community;
- We encourage all and their families to disclose HIV status when one has AIDS;
- We pledge to support, and never to gossip about or humiliate in any way, those who are known to have HIV/AIDS;
- We pledge to draw people living with HIV/AIDS close and to encourage them to live positively;
- The community will deal severely with anyone seen to discriminate against them;
- We will preach and pray about HIV/AIDS at church, in schools and in concerts;
- We will hold interfaith HIV/AIDS prayer services;
- We commit to use HIV/AIDS symbols in our workplaces as a visual sign of our unity and commitment (for example, on our clothes for work and church and school);





# RESOURCES

## Liturgical Resources

### Prayers

#### *Example of a Muslim Prayer for NFHAAD*

Prayer by Imam Daniel Hernandez<sup>11</sup> 

#### *Petition/Intercessory Prayer for HIV/AIDS*

Almighty God of all ways and all things, we come to you today in awe and praise. We know that you are the author of strength and the creator of every pathway toward justice.

We pray to you today, for all of those living with and impacted by HIV/AIDS. Lord, we ask that you provide them with the fortitude and endurance to persevere in a world that stigmatizes and ignores. God, we pray for their communities and families, that they can be a bedrock of care and support. God, we pray that our medical institutions and governments will persevere in discovering innovative and righteous solutions to help those impacted to continuously flourish while we work collectively to eradicate this disease.

Lastly, Lord, we ask that you give each of us the spiritual nourishment we need to do our part in transforming the story of HIV/AIDS and fostering a better world for generations to come.

We pray for all these things in your almighty power, Amen.

#### *Healing Prayer for HIV/AIDS*

Holy and steadfast one, we ask that you be a balm of physical, spiritual, and mental healing for our community. We especially ask that your care extend tremendously to people living with HIV/AIDS. We ask that you bless and nurture every relationship and resource that can help to mend our people and our communities. We pray for cures. We pray for medicines. We pray for mending. And most importantly, we pray for life more abundantly. We know that the seeds of good intentions we sow now, will bear fruit of greater impact later. And so we ask these things in the witness and presence of a magnificent universal power that transcends all we know and understand. Amen.

# RESOURCES

## Liturgical Resources

### Prayers

#### *Litany for NFHAAD*

**One:** God of sacred affirmation, we praise you for your abiding mercy and unwavering works.

**All:** For this we give thanks.

**One:** As we face and combat the stigmas and devastation of HIV/AIDS, we know you are with us every step of the journey.

**All:** For this we give thanks.

**One:** As we work to transform the story of HIV/AIDS in our faith communities, we know you give us voice and purpose.

**All:** For this we give thanks.

**One:** As we share resources and work collectively and collaboratively to end HIV for good, we know you have a hand in bringing us together.

**All:** For this we give thanks.

**One:** As we mend relationships, families, and hearts directly impacted by HIV/AIDS, we know you hold us close and love us evermore.

**All:** For this we give thanks.

**One:** And as we bear witness to the challenges we face today and tomorrow, we know you will guide us forward.

**All:** And for this, we give thanks. Amen

# RESOURCES

## Liturgical Resources

### Prayers

#### *Litany of Confession for HIV/AIDS Justice*

**One:** God of justice, love, and compassion

**All:** We come to you in confession of our shortcomings and ignorance of HIV/AIDS.

**One:** God who loves all without judgement, God who provides healing and new mercies everyday

**All:** We confess that, even in our faith, we have cast opinions and overlooked those in our community.

**One:** God of omnipotence and might, God of action and movement

**All:** We confess our stagnant nature and complacency. We know we can do more to destigmatize and end HIV/AIDS.

**One:** God of our evolution and transformation

**All:** We ask that you forgive our failings and lack of empathy. We ask that you equip us with the knowledge, understanding, and courage to do better on behalf of all people living with or impacted by HIV.

— Silence —

**All:** Be with us now, be with us always. This we pray. Amen.

# RESOURCES

## Liturgical Resources

### Calls to Worship

- 1 Come let us worship together  
Let us be more aware in our mind  
Let us be more compassionate in our heart  
Let us be more merciful in our spirit  
Let us be more impactful in our body  
Let us be more ignited in our soul  
Come let us worship together
- 2 We come today to worship  
We come today to change the world  
We come today to disrupt the status quo  
We come today to challenge harmful narratives  
We come today to revise our roles  
We come today to learn love more abundantly  
We come today to be and belong  
We come today to worship
- 3 As a people of God, as a community of faith  
It is our duty to not only worship for ourselves  
But for the welfare of our community.  
It is our imperative to create a better field of life  
For generations to grow.  
It is our obligation to do justice and seek liberation.  
It is our task to love boldly and out loud.  
Right here and right now, let us begin.





# RESOURCES

## Liturgical Resources

### Invocation

God of justice, God of righteousness, God of liberation, we invite you here. We ask that you unite us in this space with a common purpose and vision to bring about equity and healing in our world. Help us to open our hearts and expand our minds. Challenge us where we need to be challenged. Nurture us where we need to be nurtured. Most importantly, be with us as we pursue freedom and flourishing for all.

### Suggested Biblical Passages for Sermons and Homilies for NFHAAD

#### *Healing*

Lamentations 3  
Luke 8:40-47  
Luke 13:1-17

#### *Acceptance and Compassion*

Matthew 15:21-28  
Matthew 25:31-46  
Luke 10:29-37  
Acts 10:9-15  
Romans 12:9-13

#### *Justice*

Psalms 33:1-5  
Isaiah 58:6-11  
Zechariah 7:8-14

#### *Destigmatizing*

Mark 5:21-43  
1 Corinthians 12:12-26  
Philippians 2:3-4

*We suggest exploring inclusive translations of the Bible such as the NIV, NRSV, or the Inclusive Bible.*

# RESOURCES

## Liturgical Resources

### Revised Common Lectionary Texts for August 29, 2021<sup>12</sup>

*Song of Solomon 2:8-13*

**Suggested prompt:** How might the call to “Arise” relate or connect to the work of destigmatizing and eradicating HIV/AIDS?

*Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9*

**Suggested prompt:** How can we use our voices to advocate for people living with HIV/AIDS?

*Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

**Suggested prompt:** How might revisiting the commandment help us do justice work? What are we responsible for “teaching” this generation and the next about destigmatizing and ending HIV/AIDS?

*Psalms 15*

**Suggested prompt:** How can we do right by people living with HIV/AIDS? What oath must we take?

*James 1:17-27*

**Suggested prompt:** How can we be doers of HIV/AIDS justice work? What action steps can we take?

*Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

**Suggested prompt:** How are we being invited to let go of harmful human “traditions” that perpetuate HIV/AIDS stigma?

# RESOURCES

## Liturgical Resources

*Below are selected verses from sacred Abrahamic texts that may be useful to you as you plan NFHAAD events and activities for your community. We also strongly encourage you to pull from your own sacred texts and faith traditions.*

### Selected Quranic Verses (English Translation)

"O you who have faith! Do not render your charities void by reproaches and affronts, like those who spend their wealth to be seen by people and have no faith in Allah and the Last Day. Their parable<sup>1</sup> is that of a rock covered with soil: a downpour strikes it, leaving it bare. They have no power over anything of what they have earned, and Allah does not guide the faithless lot."

— *Quran 2:264*

"O mankind! There has come to you a good advice from your Lord, and a healing for that which is in your hearts."

— *Quran 10:57*

"O you who have faith! Let not any people ridicule another people: it may be that they are better than they are; nor let women [ridicule] women: it may be that they are better than they are. And do not defame one another, nor insult one another by [calling] nicknames. How evil are profane names subsequent to faith! And whoever is not penitent—such are the wrongdoers."

— *Quran 49:11*

### Selected Hebrew and Christian Biblical Verses

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

— *Proverbs 17:22*

"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."

— *Proverbs 16:24*

"Cursed is anyone who leads a blind person astray on the road.' And all the people will reply, 'Amen.' 'Cursed is anyone who denies justice to foreigners, orphans, or widows.' And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'" — *Deuteronomy 27:18-19*

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." — *Hebrews 11:1*

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord."

— *James 5:13-14*

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal"

— *2 Corinthians 4:16-19*

# RESOURCES

## Additional Outside Resources

We strongly encourage you to utilize the resources below as they contain educational information, infographics, activities, liturgical references, and other useful information that can further assist as you plan gatherings, events, and materials for you faith community.

**The Black Church & HIV Activity Manual** 

**HIV Awareness Days** 

**Balm in Gilead HIV Resources** 

**Many Voices** 

**RAHMA** 

**National Faith HIV & AIDS Awareness Day** 

**Center for Disease Control: HIV** 

**AIDSVu: HIV in the South** 

## Endnotes

- 1 "COMPASS Initiative FAITH Coordinating Center," Wake Forest University School of Divinity, July 27, 2021, <https://divinity.wfu.edu/compass-initiative-faith-coordinating-center/>.
- 2 "Who We Are," Compass Initiative, accessed August 19, 2021, <https://www.gileadcompass.com/who-we-are/>.
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- 5 "About Us," Faith Aids Day | One Day. Each Year. Until We Find A Cure., accessed August 5, 2021, <https://faithaidsday.com/about-us/>.
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