

## INTERFAITH CALL TO ACTION ON COVID-19

The world's religious and spiritual traditions share common values that have resonated across the globe amid the COVID-19 pandemic. These values are uniting humanity, from the most remote village and grassroots communities to senior-most leaders. Each spiritual tradition upholds the inherent dignity and value of every person. In a time dominated by confusion and fear, the diverse faith traditions call all people to care deeply for each other by promoting peace, hope and solidarity within and beyond their communities.

### TOGETHER WE WILL:

#### COMBAT STIGMA, QUELL FEARS, SPREAD FACTS

Talk about the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) by its official name and spread only accurate information about COVID-19, based on scientific data and official health advice.

Actively counter all forms of hate speech and discrimination

#### CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE

Uphold the rights and dignity of the most vulnerable as part of a spiritual obligation to care for all living things

Develop and advocate for responses that accommodate all people: refugees, internally displaced persons, the elderly, children, people living with disabilities, and pregnant women

In a safe manner, arrange and support the delivery of food, water, medicine, nutrition, and other necessary supplies to those in need

#### TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Practice and share the following to prevent the spread of the disease:

- Maintain physical distance of at least 1 metre (3 feet)
- Frequently wash hands with soap for at least 20 seconds when possible
- Cover mouth with your elbow when coughing or sneezing

#### SELF-REFLECT

Use this moment to deepen our understanding of faith and the interconnectedness of the human family

Be creative with religious gatherings to keep our community safe - host gatherings online when possible

Only convene/attend religious gatherings when it is cleared based on guidance from health experts and local/national authorities

#### BE PHYSICALLY DISTANT, BUT SPIRITUALLY CONNECTED

Be a source of peace and comfort for all people during this unsettling time

Safely reach out to others in the community who may need extra support through digital communication tools

Encourage practising faith in a safe way like praying, reading holy texts, and accessing services in creative ways (e.g. radios)

#### SUPPORT WOMEN

Since most caregivers and healthcare-sector professionals are women, ensure the inclusion of women's concerns and meaningful participation in addressing the COVID-19 outbreak, prevention, and response

Ensure that caring for the sick and vulnerable is not only women's responsibility, but everyone's

Assist people at risk of, or suffering from, domestic violence and help them access resources and take appropriate measures

#### EXPRESS GRATITUDE

Show appreciation and support to those on the frontlines including by staying home when we can (keeping ourselves, our family, and our community safe) and by following the guidance of health experts, as well as the directives from health authorities

#### REALISE THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Foster youth leadership and listen to young leaders as effective and innovative partners in preventing and responding to COVID-19

Facilitate intergenerational cooperation and compassion to uplift, care for, and motivate all people