

Statement by the Christian Conference of Asia on World AIDS Day

Today, on 01 December 2016, as the world observes World AIDS Day, the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) remembers the 35 million people who have died from AIDS-related illnesses globally, and stands in solidarity with people who continue to live with HIV and AIDS. The CCA urges all its member churches and councils to pray for the 78 million HIV and AIDS affected people.

As the world commits to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, let the churches in Asia be engaged more vigorously to combat HIV and AIDS and empower all affected people to have proper treatment, care and support services. The right to health belongs to everyone, everywhere.

While the world battles to combat the AIDS epidemic, we must take note that the number of new HIV infections is not declining among adults, with young women particularly at risk of becoming infected with HIV. This is a reminder that we must not stop now; in fact, now is the time to move forward to ensure that all children start their lives free from HIV, that young people grow up and stay free from HIV and that treatment becomes more accessible so that we can accomplish an AIDS-free world together.

As part of the body of Christ, and part of the suffering (1 Cor. 12:26), the CCA affirms to take action to break the silence, share love and provide healing to the 'Brothers and Sisters living with HIV' (BROSLIH) and 'Key Affected Populations' (KAP). The CCA is committed to dedicating its efforts to creating a common platform for action in Asian churches and seeks collaboration and cooperation with other faith communities as a large number of people need healing communities which cater to everyone without prejudice.

An end to the AIDS epidemic will also guide the world in addressing the critical linkages between health, development, injustice, inequality, poverty and conflict. Together, we can put an end to the epidemic if everyone, without exception, plays their role for the collective protection against HIV and AIDS.

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