



Christian Conference of Asia

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CCA's Statement on World AIDS Day–2021 “End Inequalities. End AIDS. End pandemics.”

The observance of World AIDS Day on 1 December 2021 which focuses on the theme “End Inequalities. End AIDS. End pandemics.” is an urgent call for everyone to address the inequalities that drive HIV and AIDS, and other pandemics.

HIV is not only a health issue, it also bears economic, social, and cultural implications, and, in all these aspects, inequalities are very much evident. In order for us to achieve the goal of getting the prevalence rate to zero level by 2030, there must be a conscious effort to arrest the spread of HIV and to holistically address the problem. Systemic discrimination in the form of economic, social, cultural, and legal inequalities must be ended as a matter of urgency if we are to end AIDS and other pandemics. Structural inequalities coupled with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic proves to be the major barrier in achieving the goal of ending AIDS by 2030. Without bold action against inequalities, the world risks missing the target to end AIDS by 2030, alongside the objective of ending the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and spiraling social and economic crises.

Tackling inequalities pertaining to HIV will not only address HIV concerns themselves but will also contribute to finding solutions on the broader societal issues of public health, economic security, and social well-being. It will advance the human rights of all people and can better prepare societies to overcome COVID-19 and other epidemics as well as supporting economic recovery and stability. Fulfilling the promise to tackle inequalities will save millions of lives and will benefit society as a whole.

Ending inequalities is a major task and requires transformative change. This is where the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) calls upon our churches to be transformative forces, and to be at the forefront in protecting the rights of everyone, especially the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised communities. We encourage Asian churches to advocate for a conducive and stigma-free society where all, regardless of their status, suffering, illness, or disability, enjoy the realisation of their rights and dignity of life. This can be done through the redevelopment or reformulation of life-affirming and life-liberating positive theologies as well.

We call upon Asian churches to walk hand-in-hand with all stakeholders and revive national and regional networks to commit in action, promote inclusive social and economic growth, and eliminate discriminatory laws, policies, and practices in order to ensure equal opportunities and reduce inequalities.

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) together with its member councils and churches expresses its solidarity with all who demand action to end inequalities, end AIDS, and end all other pandemics that thrive on inequalities around the world. In this context, we echo God's words: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10). Let this World AIDS Day observance be a reminder for us that inequalities affect us all, no matter who we are or where we are from, and that these inequalities continue to prevent us from achieving just and peaceful societies.

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General Secretary, Christian Conference of Asia