

14th Annual Conference of the
National HIV Nurses Association (NHIVNA)



**Wellington Moyo
&
Brad Smith**
Yorkshire Mesmac

14-15 June 2012, Manchester Conference Centre

Faith and HIV

**Engagement in the Community
NHIVNA 2012
Manchester**

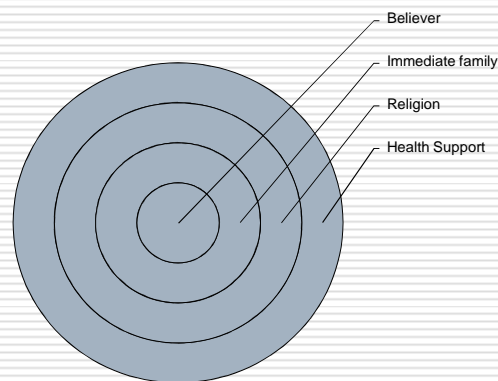
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Background

- Stigma – religious beliefs on testing and cure.
 - HIV prevention needs by religious categories (BASS LINE 2008-09).
 - African HIV Policy Network research – HIV delivered in Faith 2010.
 - Community development – Yorkshire MESMAC (Bradford and Wakefield).
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Who matters most?



Action

- One to one meetings with religious leaders.
- Mutual respect with all parties.
- Mobilisation of resources – NAHIP, NHS, NAM & Strategies for Hope.
- Training and consultation.
- Financial support – Yorkshire MESMAC and NAHIP.
- Survey/questionnaire – community members in meetings.

Questionnaire on people's views on faith and HIV

Gender: Female Age: 52

Religion: Christian City/Town: Bradford

1. What is your role in your church?
Church member
2. What is the general opinion in your organisation about sexual health?
A subject not discussed - the church seems to think that is well known that we not sleep around with multiple partners so be safe! They are protected
3. What is your church's opinion about HIV, and people living with HIV?
never discussed - HIV is for unbelieve and if u in the church after contracting it - u will cure you if not cure your christianity becomes questionable - therefore for an HIV person better not to tell.
4. Do you think the message given is helpful to the members of the congregation who are living with HIV?
Shame exists in church. This subject appears taboo
5. Do you think a person living with HIV in your congregation can disclose his/her condition to the pastor? If yes or no, please explain.
No. I happen to know one who did and was treated as an outcast. Despite supporting church financially she was not accepted and had to live that church.
6. What do you suggest to us as social support organisation should do in your church to make lives of those living with HIV better?
- Train church leadership - Testimonials, analytical and literature on HIV and give to the church.
- Positive speaking (ps)

Thank so much for your contributions, and all the information given will be treated with confidentiality.

Nature of Interventions

- Faith leaders forums.
 - Peer educators trainings.
 - Educational workshops (NAHIP).
 - One to ones.
 - Rapid HIV testing.
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Christian leaders comments

- Mixed opinions from leaders;**
 1. 'It's high time people should change their sexual behaviours, or else they will die of AIDS' (Bradford Pastor).
 2. 'Nobody is in need of HIV support in my congregation' (Bradford Pastor).
 3. 'Through prayer people can be healed from HIV' (Leeds Pastor).
 4. 'God created all things, including medicine, and it must be taken' (Wakefield Pastor).
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Muslim Leaders views

1. 'Being Muslim we do not indulge in sex outside marriage or sex before marriage so we can never get HIV infection.'
2. 'Can you tell me what HIV is? I have never heard about it.'
3. 'What are you talking about, I have lived in this country for 40 years and in my life time I have never come across a single Muslim living with HIV.'

AHPN 2010

Faith Leaders Forums findings

- Since 2010, six workshops held across Bradford and Wakefield.
 - Most attendants from traditional churches, little interest from the new Pentecostals.
 - Muslims - few prepared to give their views to outsiders.
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Church Peer Educators Training

- Drawn from various denominations in Bradford and Wakefield.
- 73 people trained to date.
- Better positioned as they have knowledge of their institutions & cell group meetings.
- Volunteer expenses met, and resources provided.
- Follow-up meetings.

Educational workshops

- Conducted in the churches.
 - Hundreds of people reached.
 - Well received by institutions – feedback after all sessions.
 - Very beneficial to all age groups.
 - Visual aids and positive speakers, added advantage.
 - Making life easier to people living with HIV.
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Feedbacks from workshops

- ❑ 'I feel you have opened the doors for me to discuss my HIV status with my pastor' (anonymous)
 - ❑ 'I think many members of my congregation will now go for testing, as I feel there are some who are in need of that service' (Bradford Pastor).
 - ❑ Increase of testing figures (GUM).
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Challenges

- ❑ Engaging all churches – resources, manpower, time & finances.
 - ❑ Religious dogma – Muslims and other religions.
 - ❑ Positive impact in Bradford and Wakefield – more can be achieved if rolled out.
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Acknowledgement

- Our Project and Begin (Yorkshire MESMAC).
 - NAHIP.
 - Trinity Centre (GUM) & Bevan House – staff and logistics.
 - NHS Sexual Health (Bradford) – staff and resources.
 - Religious community – keeping the dream alive.
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Thanks

- NHIVNA – invitation to share our progress.
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ANY QUESTIONS?
