



Invitation to the webinar on 7 December 2020 on  
**“Gender equality in the context of COVID-19”**

**as part of the series of six sessions on implementing the  
Global Pledge for Action by Religious Actors and Faith-Based Organizations  
to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in Collaboration with the United Nations**

*Co-facilitated by the UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the  
Responsibility to Protect, and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*

New York/Geneva, 18 November 2020

Dear Esteemed Leaders and Partners,

As you are aware, the UN Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC), the Office on Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) held a virtual consultation with religious leaders and actors on 28 May 2020. The consultation was organized in response to the 22 April call by the UN Secretary-General to religious actors to contribute to wider efforts against the pandemic and its consequences. The meeting brought together religious leaders and actors as well as faith-based organizations to discuss possible areas of action and collaboration with the United Nations in the common fight against COVID-19 and its socio-economic impacts. This consultation resulted in the attached Global Pledge for Action, which includes a declaration by religious leaders and actors with assurances and commitments in response to COVID-19, and a mapping of ongoing activities and possible areas of collaboration with the United Nations.

In this context, UNAOC, OSAPG and OHCHR will organize a series of peer-to-peer learning webinars with representatives from religious and faith-based organizations, civil society and human rights mechanisms in order to address and counter hate speech and discrimination related to COVID-19 and beyond, which is a central feature in the above-mentioned mapping. The webinars will also focus on exchanging information on ongoing actions, which might stimulate new result-oriented activities and specific actions to respond to the current and future challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The six webinars will cover the following topics (exact dates will be communicated to the participants prior to each session with further details):

1. Gender equality – 7 December 2020
2. Hate speech – January 2021
3. Protection of religious sites – February 2021
4. Religious or belief minorities – March 2021
5. Preventing atrocity crimes – April 2021
6. Interfaith dialogue: Moderating the religious discourse – May 2021
7. Wrap-up webinar – June 2021



Each session will collect specific recommendations for action from the participants tailored to enhance partnership between the target audience and the UN in line with the Global Pledge for Action in order to build a healthier, safer, fairer and more inclusive world where no one is left behind, as a response to global pandemic. The recommendations from all six sessions, highlighting good practices and lessons learned, will be discussed at a wrap-up session and shared with the participants for further use and reference.

We are pleased to cordially invite you to designate a representative from your organization to participate in the series of webinars. Participants need to have experience working in the field of combating COVID-19 and its impacts on society.

The first session will focus on **Gender equality in the context of COVID-19** and is scheduled for **Monday, 7 December 2020 at 10:00-11:30 EDT/16:00-17:30 CET** (to find your time zone, please click [here](#)). The number of participants for each of the six sessions is limited to 100 and the places are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

Please send an email with the designated person's name, contact details and institutional affiliation to [mwiener@ohchr.org](mailto:mwiener@ohchr.org) and cc: [anajimenez@unops.org](mailto:anajimenez@unops.org), [cruciani@un.org](mailto:cruciani@un.org) and you will receive the link to join the webinars following the registration.

Sincerely,

Nihal Saad  
Chief of Cabinet and  
Spokesperson for the High  
Representative of the  
UN Alliance of Civilizations  
(UNAOC)

Castro Wesamba  
Chief of Office  
Office on Genocide  
Prevention and  
Responsibility to Protect  
(OSAPG)

Ibrahim Salama  
Chief of Human Rights  
Treaties Branch  
Office of the High  
Commissioner for Human  
Rights (OHCHR)

Attachments:

- Global Pledge for Action by Religious Actors and Faith-Based Organizations to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in Collaboration with the United Nations
- Concept note for series of webinars