World Religious Leaders Call for a People’s Vaccine

As religious leaders, we have witnessed the personal stories behind the Covid statistics - we have, every day, heard the cries, shared with us, of the suffering, the frightened, and the bereaved.

We have witnessed too the profound love shown by those working at the frontline, and by those who have reached out to help their neighbours.

The Covid crisis has reminded us all of our interdependence, and of our responsibilities to care for one another. We can each only be safe when all of us are safe. If one part of the world is left to suffer the pandemic, all parts of the world will be put at ever-increasing risk.

The access of people to life-saving Covid-19 vaccines cannot be dependent on people’s wealth, status, or nationality. We cannot abdicate our responsibilities to our sisters and brothers by imagining that the market can be left to resolve the crisis or pretend to ourselves that we have no obligation to others in our shared humanity. Every person is precious. We have a moral obligation to reach everyone, in every country.

Right now, despite the incredible success in developing so many safe and effective vaccines in record time, and the relief of seeing them being rolled out, with deaths starting to decline as a result, it pains us greatly that access to the vaccines is so inequitable. Rich countries have been able to ramp up vaccination efforts and secure doses whilst in most low- and middle-income countries vaccines are only beginning to trickle in. At the current pace of vaccine production and distribution, people in much of the world may not be vaccinated until at least 2024. The consequences for the poorest individuals, families, and communities, will be devastating.

Neglect would undermine the dignity not only of those left behind, but also of those who have left them behind.

This unprecedented public health crisis calls, above all, for global solidarity, for all people to stand together as brothers and sisters. The same spirit of unity and common purpose that has driven scientists to develop Covid-19 vaccines at breathtaking speed, that drives the care of those tending to the sick, must also inspire the leaders of government, civil society and the private sector to massively ramp up vaccine production so there are sufficient doses for every person in the world to be vaccinated.

We call on all leaders to reject vaccine nationalism and embrace a commitment to global vaccine equity.

As religious leaders, we join our voices to the call for vaccines that are made available to all people as a global common good – a People’s Vaccine. This is the only way to end the pandemic.

Let us work together to build a more just and peaceful world.

To love is to take action.
Signed:

1. Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, President, Sojourners
2. Imam Ahmed Ghanem, Göteborg mosque, Gothenburg, Sweden
3. The Most Revd Dr Albert Chama, Archbishop of Central Africa and Chair of the Anglican Alliance
4. Adrian Cristea, Executive Officer, Dublin City Inter-faith Forum
5. Ann Scholz, SSND, Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)
6. His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London
7. Anthony Nanson
8. Avera Health
9. Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, Netherlands
10. Fr. Bernhard Bürgler SJ - Provincial of the Austrian Province of the Society of Jesus
11. Blessing Makwara, General Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe
12. The Revd Canon Bob Fyffe, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
13. Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, President of the Board at Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
14. Rev. Brian D. McLaren, USA
15. Brigid Lawlor, Province Advocacy Liaison, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces
16. The Rev. Cn. Bruce W. Woodcock, Asia and the Pacific Partnership Officer for the Episcopal Church
17. Carolyn Lawrence, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference
18. Rev. Charles Berahino, Executive Secretary for Peace and Diakonia at the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)
19. Rev. Chris Hudson, Moderator, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland
20. Christopher Cox
21. The Rev. Christopher Frye, St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, PA
22. Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church
23. The Rev. Clelia P. Garrity, LCSW, Diocesan Missioner for Global Refuge Missions
24. Rev. Colin Holtz, President, Faithful America Board of Directors
25. Commissioner Anthony Cotterill, Salvation Army Territorial Commander, United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland
26. Revd Duncan Dormor, General Secretary, USPG
27. Fr Damian Howard SJ
28. Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, Scholar in Residence, National Council of Jewish Women
29. Bishop David Musumba, Free Pentecostal Fellowship in Kenya
30. Rev. Derrick Jones, Supervisor of RCA Mission programs in Africa
31. Dominican Sisters, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA
32. Rev Dyfrig Rees, General Secretary of the Union of Welsh Independents
33. Eddy Ruble, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
34. Edwin Graham, Coordinator, Northern Ireland Inter-faith Forum
35. Sister Eileen Gannon, OP Leadership, Sparkill, NY
36. Elijah M. Brown, General Secretary, Baptist World Alliance
37. Emmanuel Ahua
38. Sr. Emily TeKolste, SP, Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
40. Esther Mombo
41. Franck Janin, President, Jesuit Conference of European Provincials
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<td>Rev. Fredrick Gilbert</td>
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<td>Gustavo Calderón, S.J. Provincial de Ecuador - COMPAÑÍA DE JESÚS</td>
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<td>Hazel Loney, Lay Leader, Methodist Church in Ireland</td>
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<td>Haider Ibrahim, Chairman, Islamic Shia communities in Sweden</td>
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<td>Rev. Hodari Williams, New Life Church, Atlanta, Georgia, USA</td>
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<td>Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, Imam</td>
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<td>Very Revd Dr Ivan Patterson, President, Irish Council of Churches</td>
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<td>Rabbi Jacob Siegel</td>
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<td>The Rev. James L. Reisner</td>
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<td>52.</td>
<td>Fr. Jan Roser SJ, Provincial</td>
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<td>53.</td>
<td>Sr. Jane Herb, IHM Sisters of Monroe, Michigan - President</td>
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<td>Jason Miller, Franciscan Action</td>
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<td>Javier Perez, Director of Global Missions Programs &amp; Impact, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship</td>
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<td>56.</td>
<td>Rev Jennifer Butler, Faith in Public Life</td>
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<td>Rev Dr Jennie Hurd, Chair of the Methodist Church Cymru Synod</td>
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<td>58.</td>
<td>Jennifer Lau - Executive Director, Canadian Baptist Ministries</td>
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<td>P. Jesus Zaglul, Casa Generalicia de los jesuitas, Roma</td>
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<td>Jim Winkler, President, National Council of Churches</td>
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<td>Sr. Joan Mumaw IHM</td>
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<td>John Celichowski, OFM Cap., NAPCC Novitiate, Santa Ynez, CA</td>
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<td>Rev. John Chan, Canadian Baptist Ministries</td>
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<td>The Most Reverend John Davies, Archbishop of Wales</td>
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<td>Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh, Church of Ireland</td>
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66. Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
67. Rev. Canon Joseph P Collins  
68. The Most Revd Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion  
69. The Rev’d Fr. Johannes Mokgethi-Heath, Act Church of Sweden  
70. Rev. Julia Bowering, Canadian Baptist Ministries  
71. Rev Judith Morris, General Secretary of the Union of Welsh Baptists  
72. Judith Toner, member NY State UCC Global Ministries Committee  
73. Judy Byron, OP, Inter-Community Peace & Justice Center, Seattle, Washington, USA  
74. D. Kang-San Tan, BMS World Mission  
75. Pastor Kay Woike, Church of the Nativity, United Church Of Christ  
76. Ven. Kofi deGraft-Johnson, CAPA Secretariat, Nairobi, Kenya  
77. Dr. Krish Kandiah, Greater Good Global  
78. Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Former Senior Rabbi, Reform Judaism  
79. Dr. Lauren Jinshil Oliver, founder, CirclesWork.net  
80. Lawrence Couch, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
81. Lawrence Gilley, United Church of Christ, Deansboro, New York, USA  
82. Dr. Lesmore Gibson, All Africa Conference of Churches  
83. The Most Reverence Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada  
84. Louise Hannem, Canadian Baptist Ministries  
85. Janice Tsang, Co-convenor of the Anglican Health & Community Network (AHCN)  
86. Lucas Lopez Perez SJ, del equipo de la Conferencia de Provinciales Jesuitas de America Latina y el Caribe  
87. Rev. Luis Cortes, Jr. President Emeritus Hispanic Clergy, President & CEO, Esperanza

89. Friar Marco Moroni, Sacro Convento of Assisi

90. Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church

91. Right Reverend Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

92. Mary Ellen Holohan, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Member of Congregational Leadership Team

93. Rt Revd Dr Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford and Co-Convener of Anglican Health & Community Network

94. Archbishop Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte OFM

95. Mohamed Temsamani, Chairman of United Islamic Associations of Sweden

96. Archbishop Mouneer Anis

97. Margaret Rose, The Episcopal Church

98. Marie Dennis, Pax Christi International

99. Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, General Secretary, Lutheran World Federation

100. Mary J. Novak, Executive Director, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

101. Rev. Maxwell Doss - General Secretary, National Christian Council of Sri Lanka

102. Merritt Johnston, Baptist World Alliance

103. Rev. Nathan Empsall, Executive Director of Faithful America

104. Nathan Jones, Oasis Waterloo

105. Nick Park, Executive Director, Evangelical Alliance Ireland

106. Rabbi Nora Feinstein

107. Patricia Millen, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

108. Bishop Paul Horan, Diocese of Mutare, Zimbabwe
109. Paul Parker, Quakers in Britain
110. Peter Pay, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church
111. Sister Pegge Boehm, PBVM, Sisters of the Presentation of the BVM of Aberdeen SD
112. Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
113. Sister Quincy Howard, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
114. Rev. Randy Stanton
115. Rebecca Linder Blachly, Director, The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations
116. Revd Richard Teal, President of the Methodist Conference
118. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union for Reform Judaism
119. Roberto Jaramillo Bernal, S.J., Presidente de la Conferencia de Provincias, Jesuitas de America Latina y El Caribe
120. Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS
121. Dr. Rowan Williams, UK
122. Sacro Convento of Assisi
123. Rt Revd Sarah Groves, Moravian Church
124. Rev. Fr. Seamus Finn OMI, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate- US Province
125. Sheila Katz, CEO National Council of Jewish Women, USA
126. Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
127. Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Leadership
128. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team
129. Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
130. Rev. S.J.Wilson, Atlanta GA
131. Rev. Dr. Stephen Wigley, Chair of the Wales Synod of the Methodist Church
132. Susan Gunn, MaryKnoll Office for Global Concerns

133. Rabbi Suzan E. Lipson

134. Rev. Sylvestre BIZIMANA, General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Burundi

135. Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia, Executive Director, Religions for Peace USA

136. Fr. Ted Penton, SJ, Secretary of Justice and Ecology, Jesuit Conference of Canada and the US

137. The Most Revd Dr Thabo Cecil Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town

138. Rev Dr Tom McKnight, President, Methodist Church in Ireland

139. Bishop Venson Shava

140. Vicky Heslop, Jampa Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre

141. Wanda M Lundy, Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church/ New York Theological Seminary

142. Rev. Wayne A. Laws, Minister of Social Justice & Mission at Mountain View United Church

143. Bishop William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne and Chair of the Trócaire Board of Directors

144. Xavier Jeyaraj SJ, Secretary for Social Justice and Ecology, Curia Generalizia, Rome

145. Dr. Zahid Bukhari, Executive Director, Center for Islam and Public Policy

146. Dr. Azza Karam, Secretary-General, Religions for Peace

147. Mehmet Kaplan, Director, Muslim Aid, Sweden

148. Dianne E. Randall, General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

149. Br. Michael Schöpf, SJ, Deputy International Director, Jesuit Refugee Service

150. Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes

151. Rev. Ruth M. Brandon

152. Rev. Eugene Cho, President/CEO, Bread for the World

153. The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church

154. The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America