

FAITH-BASED COLLABORATION TO COUNTERACT CHRONIC DISEASES

Faith-Based Organisations of Barbados Uniting in collaboration with the National NCD Commission and the Healthy Caribbean Coalition to Prevent and Control NCDs

DECLARATION of Bridgetown

We, the representatives of the Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) of Barbados meeting at Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre, Bridgetown, Barbados on 26 February 2014 on the occasion of a FBO non-communicable diseases (NCDs) consultation;

Aware of the scourge of NCDs, and the threat they pose to health and human development in Barbados, the Caribbean and beyond and recognizing that 25% of adult Barbadians have a NCD;

Recalling the first consultation between FBOs and the National Commission for NCDs in 2008, which affirmed the desire of FBOs to commit to tackling the NCDs;

Affirming the Declaration of Port of Spain; Uniting to Stop the Epidemic of NCDs, 2007, in which regional Heads of Government were united in their support for, encouragement of, and commitment to the prevention and control of NCDs and the need to achieve this through a multi-sector action;

Inspired by the principles of religious faith, which mandate the pursuit of a healthy mind in a healthy body;

Fully persuaded that the burden of NCDs can be reduced through education, training, empowerment, creation of an enabling environment by legislation and appropriate policies, and enlisting of our congregations in the science and art of healthy lifestyles;

Declare:

- Our full support for initiatives and programmes aimed at the prevention, control and better management of NCDs
- Our commitment to establish and further develop Health and Wellness Ministries for the planning and execution of health programmes;
- Our commitment to teach the theological and faith based rationale for healthy living so that over and beyond the medical scientific evidence our members will have the motivation which is the foundation for their existence as faith based organizations;
- Our commitment to reach children and youth in our congregations and communities with specially developed age appropriate programmes to promote health across the life course to prevent NCDs;
- That we shall develop and implement a variety of programmes for educating and training our members in healthy lifestyle practices for prevention of NCDs, to include health lectures, panel discussions, healthy lifestyle workshops, cooking classes, exercise sessions and health fairs, health counselling
- That we will engage in active education of our congregations;
- That we will plan outreach health programmes aiming to reach all persons, especially most at risk populations with information on chronic disease prevention and healthy living;
- That we shall strive to promote good nutrition by serving healthy meals at all functions held at our premises;
- That we hereby declare our support to the NCD Commission in its efforts to reduce risk factors associated with chronic diseases and pledge to promote healthy lifestyle activities and further declare to support Caribbean Wellness Day held in September annually and will designate that weekend annually as Health and Temperance or healthy lifestyle Weekend, for our members in commemoration of this important and decisive consultation;

We resolve to make this Declaration known to the Political leadership in Barbados and other CARICOM countries as we seek to contribute to, and advocate for, multi-sector response to NCDs by FBOs in Barbados and the Caribbean.