



This generation of young people recognizes the urgency of bridging faith divides in order to solve the world's most pressing problems. Interfaith Youth Core's exemplary model of dialogue through social action and its global leadership with young people of faith make it the perfect partner for this campaign. - former Prime Minister Tony Blair

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Malaria Facts

In Africa malaria is the single leading cause of death for children under five.

Worldwide, malaria causes around 350 to 500 million illnesses and more than one million

Dear Reader,

This morning, I stood alongside **former Prime Minister Tony Blair** in the Time Warner Center in New York. With us was the talented writer and activist Saleemah Abdul-Ghafur from the non-profit organization, **Malaria No More**. The room was teeming with press, all there to hear history in the making. A little over a month ago, Prime Minister Blair announced the formation of the **Tony Blair Faith Foundation**. Today's press conference marked the launch of one of its first campaigns: **FaithsAct**.

FaithsAct seeks to bring members of the world's faiths together in a collaborative, global effort to prevent deaths caused by malaria. The goal is to raise awareness about the disease and money for one million life-saving bed nets by September 25, 2008 and, in so doing, forge ties between faiths by inspiring them to work together.

Prime Minister Blair has asked Interfaith Youth Core as a leader of the interfaith youth movement to be a key partner in this initiative. By bringing together faith communities around the world we can not only show the world the power of pluralism, but we can also take action to eradicate malaria.

Watch the address.

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The Issue: Malaria

With **500 million cases a year and one to three million deaths worldwide** - mostly among children and pregnant women in Africa - malaria is a devastating global health crisis. Through actions as simple

deaths annually.

Annual economic loss in Africa due to malaria is estimated to be \$12 billion, representing a crippling 1.3 percent annual loss in GDP growth in endemic countries.

90% of malaria-related deaths now occur in Africa; 40% of the world's population is at risk of contracting the disease.

By mobilizing faith communities, Rwanda has cut malaria deaths by 66% since 2005.

What can you do?

[Check out the building awareness tool kit.](#)



as increasing worldwide access to bed nets, deaths from malaria are preventable. Durable, insecticide-treated bed nets are a powerful first line of defense against malaria. They create a barrier between humans and mosquitoes at night, when most bites occur, by killing mosquitoes on contact.

Bed nets provide the world's faith communities with a unique opportunity to come together in the form of a robust, multi-faith humanitarian initiative aimed at eradicating deaths due to malaria. One of the most underutilized resources in the effort to increase worldwide access to bed nets is the vast network of faith communities in Africa. Scaling up these networks could revolutionize malaria control on the continent, where churches and mosques far outnumber health centers. In Rwanda, churches have been used as health centers, with remarkable success. Since 2005, Rwanda has cut malaria deaths by 66%. These types of efforts against malaria can help ensure that the 21st century is a time of religious cooperation and not religious extremism.

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Our Partner: Tony Blair Faith Foundation

The purpose of the **Tony Blair Faith Foundation** is to promote respect, friendship and understanding between the major religious faiths and to make the case for faith itself as relevant, positive and a force for good in the modern world.

Blair spoke on April 3, 2008 at Westminster Cathedral about the main goals of his foundation:

"The foundation will concentrate on certain key specifics. The first will be to help the different faith organisations to work together in furtherance of the Millennium Development Goals, which I helped advocate as PM and which are, in many ways, the litmus test of the world's values. Faith groups do great individual work in this area. But they could do even more, if helped also to combine together. The MDGs are stark in their ambition and necessity. We are falling short as a world in meeting them. It would be a great example of faith in action to try to bridge the gap and awaken the world's conscience. The second will be to produce high quality material - books, websites, every means of communication - to educate people better about the different faiths, what they truly believe not what we often mistakenly think they believe."

[Tony Blair Faith Foundation Website](#)

To read Tony Blair's speech at Westminster Cathedral on April 3rd [click here.](#)

To watch the video of the speech [click here.](#)

Our Partner: Malaria No More

One of the key partners in this work is the non-profit organization Malaria No More. The organization works to raise the profile of the disease among the public, policymakers, and businesses, while engaging the private sector to provide life-saving bed nets and other essential interventions to vulnerable families in Africa.

[Malaria No More website.](#)



I am proud to invite you all to join our effort in this noble cause. I look forward to your comments and suggestions as we move forward in this partnership.

Eboo Patel
Founder and Executive Director
Interfaith Youth Core

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Get involved in with the interfaith youth movement through monthly donations to IFYC. It is the fast, easy and safe way to make your commitment to religious pluralism. Just click on the donation box to the left to get started.

For more information please contact our Development Department at katya@ifyc.org or 312-573-8852.

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