



Sara E. Speicher



Education

Master of Arts in Religious Studies with Distinction, 2007
Lancaster University, UK

Master of Arts with a professional concentration in marketing higher education and non-profit organisations, 1996, DePaul University, School for New Learning, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Honors: Phi Kappa Phi, 1994

Bachelor of Arts in Religion, 1987
Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, USA

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, 1987

University of Aberdeen, Scotland, 1985-86

Sara Speicher has over 15 years experience in religious and non-profit communication and management. Over the last 12 years she has worked for leading international organisations such as the World Council of Churches, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, World AIDS Campaign and World YWCA.

Sara brings significant expertise in communication tools and strategies, long experience in managing international projects, and an extensive network of associates that ensure projects are comprehensive, effective and visible.

Sara grew up in the USA, worked for seven years in Geneva, Switzerland, and has now been based in the UK since 2003.

The following provide some examples of her work.

Project management

Tapping into her experience and expertise in organisational management and ecumenical relationships, as well as her experience in addressing HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, Sara was asked to convene the steering committee planning the first-ever high level international religious summit on HIV, and led all aspects of planning and reporting. Participants included the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, H.H. Abune

Paulos; the Archbishop of Abuja, the Most Rev. John Onaiyekan; the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev. Thabo Makogbe; H.H. Ravi Shankar; Sheikh Mohammad Gemea; Rabbi David Rosen and 35 other high level religious leaders along with the Executive Directors of UNAIDS and UNFPA, the AIDS Ambassadors of the Netherlands and Sweden, people living with HIV and other representatives of organisations and networks active in the response. The summit, with the focus on stigma and discrimination, was widely regarded as a significant success in the global AIDS response. See www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaid/s/summit-of-high-level-religious/

International AIDS Conferences are held every two years and draw over 20,000 people engaged in all aspects of the response to HIV and AIDS. Since 2004, Sara has organised a team of writers, photographers and videographers to report on faith-based participation and engagement on the HIV pandemic. She develops the strategy, sets the budget, engages in fundraising, selects the team, makes the technical specifications and arrangements, and manages the work of the team during the conference. At the IAC in 2006, Sara coordinated an exhibition launch

with the participation of Norwegian Crown Princess Mette-Marit.

See www.iac.e-alliance.ch

Media and Public Relations

Since 2005, the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance has promoted a "Week of Action" for churches and partners, first focusing on trade and over the last two years focusing on food issues. Sara has helped to develop the international strategy for the event, including outlining and editing the action guides, preparing media tips, writing articles and designing web sites for resources and reports. See <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/2010-churches-week-of-action-on-food/>

When United Nations member states gathered in New York in June 2008 to review their progress in tackling the HIV pandemic, so were over 1,000 civil society representatives. Sara was asked to be part of a small media team writing joint press releases and coordinating messages and contacts between the many civil society organisations and media based at the United Nations.

See www.ua2010.org/en/UNGASS/Press-Centre

Programme Reporting

Sara has assisted organisations not only with annual reports, but also with programme planning and reporting documents for donors and governing bodies. Sample annual reports can be seen for the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (<http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/about-us/>) and for the World Council of Churches (http://www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/2007pdfs/WCC_Review_for_web.pdf)

One of her most extensive reports was prepared for the World Council of Churches and covered their work over seven years between their general assemblies. See *From Harare to Porto Alegre 1998-2006* at: <http://www.oikoumene.org/gr/resources/documents/assembly/porto-alegre->

[2006/3-preparatory-and-background-documents/assembly-books/from-harare-to-porto-alegre-report.html](http://www.oikoumene.org/gr/resources/documents/assembly-books/from-harare-to-porto-alegre-report.html)

Past Employment

Media and Communication Consultant
(February 2004 to January 2006).

Coordinator, Public Information Team, World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland (June 2002-November 2003).

Communication Officer, World Council of Churches (1999-May 2002).

Programme Assistant, Programme to Overcome Violence, World Council of Churches (1997-1998).

Associate Director, Association of Brethren Caregivers, Elgin, Illinois, USA (1994-1996).

Editor/Writer, William Rainey Harper College, Palatine, Illinois, USA (1990-1994).

Other Current Positions

Secretary, WACC Europe Steering Committee, 2011- (Member of WACC Europe Steering Committee since 2008).

Member of the Warton (Lancashire, UK) Pre-School Committee and the Parents Association of Archbishop Hutton Primary School.