Reviewer's report

Title: Religion and HIV in Tanzania: Influence of Religious Beliefs on HIV Stigma, Disclosure, and Treatment Attitudes

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Reviewer: Jeffrey Grierson

Reviewer's report:

The paper presents findings from a self-administered survey to church attendees on belief and attitudes relating to HIV and people living with HIV. The paper addresses a critical issue on which there is very limited published data. The findings presented in the paper are both of general interest to the scientific community and of practical import for policy makers and practitioners working in these settings.

Discretionary Revisions

1. In the limitations sections it would be useful if the authors addressed issues around the completion of the questionnaire by people living with HIV/AIDS. It appears from the paper that respondents were not asked their HIV status or HIV testing practice. While this is a reasonable pragmatic decision in a study such as this, the rationale for this decision and the implications arising from it should be made explicit. Most of the items included in the instrument would clearly have different meanings for those who have tested HIV positive, particularly those who have commenced ARV. In a setting with around 7% HIV prevalence and in the presence of an active roll out of ARV treatment, this could have a noticeable impact on the findings.

2. While the authors cite a number of papers that have examined the beliefs and practices of Muslim communities in Tanzania, none appear to cover directly comparable findings. It would be useful for the authors to provide a rationale for not including other religious belief systems in the current study and perhaps to examine the utility of the current methodology for addressing these groups.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests