



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council - 44th Session

Agenda Item 10 - Enhanced ID on the oral reports of the Government of the Sudan and OHCHR

16 July 2020 | Speaker: Wissam Al Saliby

Thank you Madam President.

The World Evangelical Alliance welcomes the oral reports of the Government of Sudan and of OHCHR.

We also welcome the wide-ranging amendments to Sudan's criminal law including repealing the death penalty for apostasy. We hope that these courageous measures will include repealing article 125 of the criminal code which prescribes one year imprisonment for insulting religion.

The World Evangelical Alliance also welcomes the criminalization this month of female genital mutilation as well as the repeal in November 2019 of local public order laws used to restrict women's movement, dress, association, work and study. We hope these reforms will extend to repealing article 152 of the criminal code on public decency which is often used to harass women for alleged indecent clothing.

We welcome the government's recent abolition of the church oversight committees, which promoted undue state intrusion in church affairs. We call for the compensation for destroyed churches and for returning confiscated church properties, and for the government to allow representation of members of minority faiths appointed by faith communities in the ministry of religious endowments.

Finally, we call for the inclusion of Christian Religion in the time-table of the subjects for the Basic School Certificate for the coming school year, as an alternative for Christian students to Islamic Religion classes.

Thank you Madam President.