

Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 47th session

Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Adoption of the UPR outcome of Austria

8 July 2021

Delivered by Albert Hengelaar

The World Evangelical Alliance thanks the Government of Austria for engaging in the UPR.

We welcome the Government's support of State recommendations on countering human trafficking of all, including its victims from Nigeria. Among such measures are: better identification of victims, the prosecution of traffickers, and improved co-ordination between law enforcement agencies and civil society.

We welcome the annual exchange between representatives of law enforcement authorities and specialized victim protection associations.

Together with our member Austrian Evangelical Alliance and Austrian Initiative for People in Prostitution Herzwirk, we call on the Government of Austria to continue with its efforts in tackling human trafficking.

In this respect, we would like to reiterate our recommendation to expand and systematize existing training on human trafficking for the police and health professionals, as well as for public servants working in the area of asylum and migration.

We also call on the Government of Austria to offer access to victims' rights, including residency permits, to the victims of trafficking independent of their willingness to make a statement with the police.

These measures will increase the efficiency of the Austrian Government's current efforts to combat human trafficking.

Thank you.