



## **Joint Oral Statement**

Human Rights Council 49<sup>th</sup> Session

Agenda Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's report on Afghanistan

7 March 2022

Delivered by Markus Stefan Hofer

Madam Vice-President,

This is a joint statement with Baptist World Alliance and Jubilee Campaign.

Religious minorities in Afghanistan are threatened. Thousands of Afghans who espoused the Christian faith are hiding in fear since August of last year.

We call on OHCHR and relevant special procedures to closely monitor the situation of religious minorities in Afghanistan and in the surrounding countries where members of religious minorities took refuge.

We look forward to working with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan. We recommend to maintain a strong human rights pillar of the United Nations Assistance Mission to support the Special Rapporteur in continued monitoring of human rights, specifically women and minorities rights.

In addition, thousands of Afghans who evacuated are stranded in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. We appeal to governments to expedite the process towards resettlement and for additional governments to agree to receive refugees for resettlement.

Despite Security Council resolution enabling the provision of humanitarian aid, exemptions are not effective. A lack of liquidity limits the capacity of churches and humanitarian organizations to reach people in need.

We call on States to take meaningful and effective measures to enable the provision of humanitarian aid.

Thank you.