

## Oral Statement

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

Agenda Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

10 March 2022

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We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur and express our gratitude for his work over the course of his mandate.

Evangelicals have often engaged for peace and against the consequences of conflict on people.

A historical example is Henry Dunant, who founded the International Committee of the Red Cross. He was also the first secretary of the Evangelical Alliance in Geneva.

In the Central African Republic, Evangelical, Catholic, and Muslim leaders work hand in hand in the Interfaith Peace Platform to pursue peace and against the religious radicalization of the population.

Although Evangelicals are a small minority in Lebanon, churches have supported the livelihood of tens of thousands of Syrian refugees since 2012, going against the perception that refugees were not welcomed in the country.<sup>1</sup>

In Colombia, Evangelical missionaries played an important role in supporting the peace negotiations between the FARC and the government of Colombia.<sup>2</sup>

The embrace of the other extinguishes hostilities and hate. The love of the neighbor helps heal the wounds caused by conflict.

*Fratelli Tutti* – all brothers – was the concept that inspired Henry Dunant. We aspire for a world where people from all faith groups may live in fraternity, building bridges and fostering reconciliation.

Thank you.

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1 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-review-of-the-red-cross/article/abs/faith-and-impartiality-in-humanitarian-response-lessons-from-lebanese-evangelical-churches-providing-food-aid/EF1C8864A8D1F5004B6D6F6362FA08F0>

2 <https://olire.org/olires-recommended-book-victorious-the-impossible-path-to-peace/>