

## **Oral Statement**

Human Rights Council 53<sup>rd</sup> Session

Agenda Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

28 June 2023

Delivered by Markus HOFER

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur and the focus on protection for 2023.

Protection has been a key focus of our anti-trafficking work in Asia to protect Myanmar refugees and Europe, where our anti-trafficking network was activated in the first week of Russia's war to protect Ukrainians at the border, in transit and temporary housing.

Displaced Ukrainians need long-term protection, and we call on governments in the region to provide avenues to regularize migration status for those rebuilding their lives in neighbouring countries or further abroad. Access to jobs, education, child care and housing must also continue for displaced people, including those who wish to return home.

Exhaustion, depleted funds, divided attention and increasing demands are negatively impacting those serving closest to the Ukraine crisis. We urge the international community to fulfil and strengthen their commitment to financial support to protect vulnerable populations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, and other regions facing displacement.

Finally, we are particularly concerned about the vulnerability of stateless people displaced by Russia's war on Ukraine. Can the Special Rapporteur comment on the situation for Roma people in Ukraine and neighbouring countries in terms of identification and protection?

Thank you.