



## **Oral Statement**

Human Rights Council 54<sup>th</sup> Session

**Item 9: Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner oral updates on drivers, root causes and Human Rights impacts of religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence**

5 October 2023

Delivered by Markus Hofer

Thank you, Mr. President.

The World Evangelical Alliance reiterates our condemnation of all desecration, destruction or disrespect of sacred texts, as well as religious objects or places of worship.

Often, religious hatred spills into violence in a context where religious minorities are disenfranchised, stigmatized, scapegoated and discriminated against.

Of great concern to us are the attacks against religious minorities and the ensuing loss of life that result from religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

While minorities are not mentioned in Resolution 53/1, addressing drivers, root causes, and Human Rights impacts of religious hatred needs to account for the presence and situation of religious minorities.

The World Evangelical Alliance calls on Christians and people of all faiths to model tolerance, compassion and empathy towards all other religious groups. We call for collaboration across faith traditions to promote a shared understanding of how our increasingly pluralistic societies can be inclusive, tolerant, welcoming and flourishing.

We ask the High Commissioner what good practices he has identified where governments include religious minorities in national dialogue and platforms to help dispel prejudices against them.