



## **Oral Statement**

UN Human Rights Council 55<sup>th</sup> Session  
Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review  
**Adoption of the UPR outcome of Canada**  
25-26 March 2024  
Delivered by Wissam al Saliby

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance and our member, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, thank the Canadian government for its commitment to the UPR.

We regret Canada's refusal of recommendations to reconsider its stance on euthanasia for those who are not nearing death, including those with mental illness alone.

We also regret Canada's refusal to refrain from further extending access to medical assistance in dying especially to children.

We welcome that the government has passed legislation to delay eligibility for euthanasia on the basis of mental illness until 2027. However, we call on the Canadian government to halt eligibility for euthanasia on the basis of mental illness alone altogether.

We also call on Canada to repeal medical assistance in dying provisions for those whose natural death is not reasonably foreseeable. A special pathway to medical assistance in dying for people with disabilities is discriminatory and puts lives at risk.

The number of deaths by euthanasia continues to increase dramatically each year, accounting for 4% of all deaths nationally in 2022. We recommend Canada investigate accounts of people requesting medical assistance in dying in the absence of timely or accessible treatment or support, or due to housing or food insecurity, and take steps to ensure these adequate supports and resources are provided.

Finally, we call on Canada to protect persons from feeling pressured or induced to request hastened death in moments of vulnerability.

Thank you.