



Joint Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 56th Session

Agenda Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

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Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance and our member, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, and the Salvation Army welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur.

Significantly, the report recognizes prostitution as a system of exploitation and violence, which reduces women and girls to commodities.

It recognizes prostitution as a system of inequality and discrimination based on sex and other intersecting grounds. As such, there is a full spectrum of international human rights standards that apply in the context of prostitution.

We affirm the Special Rapporteur's findings that prostitution is both intrinsically linked to violence against women and girls and constitutes a form of violence in and of itself.

We are particularly concerned about the contexts that create vulnerability to exploitation in prostitution and appreciate the report's fulsome discussion of those factors.

We affirm the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur.

In particular, we urge all States to:

- Recognize prostitution with its connected variations, such as pornography, as a system of exploitation and violence; and
- Adopt the abolitionist legal framework and its five pillars, namely the decriminalization of women in prostitution; providing comprehensive support and exit pathways; criminalizing the purchase of sexual acts and all forms of pimping; and implementing sensitization campaigns for sexual act buyers.

Thank you.