



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 57th Session

Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Adoption of the UPR outcome of Yemen

30 September 2024

Delivered by Markus Hofer

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance thanks the government of Yemen for its commitment to the UPR process.

We welcome Yemen's acceptance of the recommendation to 'respect and protect the rights to freedom of expression and religion or belief and cease arbitrary arrests and harassment aimed at preventing the free exercise of these rights'. We look forward to the implementation of this recommendation, particularly when it comes to the liberty of individuals to hold beliefs or publicly renounce them without constraints.

We regret, however, that other recommendations on freedom of religion were not supported by the government, such as the one to 'take all necessary actions to stop persecution of religious and ethnic minority groups' and to 'guarantee freedom of religion or belief'.

We urge Yemen to repeal apostasy laws and enshrine in legislation the right to freedom of religion or belief, and to integrate the protection of religious minorities and the right to freedom of religion in political settlements and peace agreements.

We also call on the government to acknowledge the challenges Yemeni Christians face and respect their rights as integral members of Yemeni society.

Finally, establishing modern constitutional and legal frameworks in Yemen, in line with international obligations and humanitarian laws, is essential for safeguarding religious freedom.

Thank you.