



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 58th Session

Agenda Item 2: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan

28 February 2025

Delivered by Janet Epp Buckingham

Mister President,

The World Evangelical Alliance, representing over 600 million evangelical Christians worldwide, established a Women's Commission in 1974 to promote the full participation of women in ministry and society.

We are deeply disturbed by the increasing restrictions on the ability of women in Afghanistan to meaningfully participate in society. The restrictions imposed under the "Law on propagation of virtue and prevention of vice" violate women's fundamental human dignity. Women in Afghanistan are rendered mute and invisible. With recent prohibition on women taking medical education, women's very existence is threatened. Afghan women are not permitted to obtain medical treatment from men and if there are no female medics, women cannot obtain medical attention at all.

It is particularly distressing that this subjugation of women is being done in the name of religion.

As Christian women, we wish to use our faces and our voices to stand for and with women whose faces are required to be hidden, and voices have been ordered to be silenced.

We urge this esteemed Council to condemn these restrictions and strongly urge the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to restore the fundamental human rights of women in Afghanistan.

Thank you.