



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 60th Session

Item 2: General debate on the oral update by the High Commissioner

9 September 2025

Delivered by Janet Epp Buckingham

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance welcomes the High Commissioner's oral update and his report on Sri Lanka.

We acknowledge some progress toward a more inclusive political discourse. However, serious concerns remain. Structural patterns of abuse persist, including arbitrary arrests under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, custodial deaths, and the harassment of civil society actors. Disputes over religious sites and restrictions on worship continue to undermine freedom of religion or belief for minority communities.

We urge OHCHR to press the government of Sri Lanka to take immediate steps to address these abuses and are encouraged to hear that the government is committed to doing so.

Further, the government should ensure transparent exhumations of mass graves with the support of international expertise and demonstrate credible progress in resolving emblematic human rights cases.

We further call on OHCHR to advocate for comprehensive security sector reforms and the creation of an independent institution with a clear mandate to investigate and prosecute serious crimes committed by law enforcement officials. Such an institution must be impartial, effective, and fully committed to delivering justice for victims of human rights violations.

Thank you.