



Joint Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 60th Session

Agenda Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery

12 September 2025

Delivered by Markus Hofer

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance and the Salvation Army welcome the Special Rapporteur's report and fully support its urgent call to end the worst forms of child labour.

Nowhere is this situation more stark than in Sub-Saharan Africa, where one in four children—an estimated 86.6 million—are forced to work. In Tanzania alone, 4.2 million children are subjected to the worst forms of child labour, including mining, quarrying, fishing, and domestic work. In the gold mining region of Geita, 96% of school absenteeism is linked directly to child labour. We note that children exploited for labour are often subjected to sexual exploitation as well.

We emphasise the critical role of community-based strategies, where local networks - including churches - can be mobilised to prevent exploitation and support families in keeping children in school. Equally, children themselves must be included in shaping solutions that affect them.

We strongly affirm the non-punishment principle as a cornerstone of protection. However, its effectiveness relies on robust, child-sensitive identification systems and remedies; without them, children remain invisible and unprotected.

We affirm that every child carries inherent worth and must be protected. We call on all governments and stakeholders to act with urgency and unity to make this a lived reality for every child.

Thank you.