



Joint Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 60th Session

Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Adoption of the UPR outcome of Türkiye

29 September 2025

Delivered by Markus Hofer

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance and the Baptist World Alliance thank Türkiye for its commitment to the UPR process.

We are concerned by Türkiye's narrow interpretation of "minority." The Protestant community includes both citizens and non-citizens, yet many foreign members—some long-term residents with families—face entry bans under codes such as N-82 and G-87. These individuals have not been charged with any crime and are being banned from the country simply because of their religious affiliation. Their exclusion also disrupts local congregations, often leaving communities without a pastor.

We urge the government to engage in structured dialogue with the Protestant minority and to include community representatives in official meetings. Experience shows that open communication helps resolve problems quickly and constructively.

While Türkiye has noted in its report its laws addressing hate speech, Christians experienced an increase in 2024 in hate speech and hate crimes. In many cases, despite formal complaints, perpetrators were released without consequences, fueling mistrust.

We therefore encourage Türkiye to strengthen its legislation by clearly defining hate speech and hate crimes in line with international standards, and to ensure that all complaints are effectively investigated and perpetrators held accountable.

Thank you.