



**BAPTIST
WORLD
ALLIANCE**



Joint Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 61st Session

Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Adoption of the UPR outcome of Libya

23 March 2026

Delivered by Janet Epp Buckingham

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance together with a coalition of NGOs¹ thank Libya for its commitment to the UPR process.

We commend Libya for supporting the recommendation to ‘Release all those arbitrarily detained and ensure implementation of its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment’.

In contravention of their rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and as to arbitrary detention under the ICCPR, to which Libya is a State Party:

- a Libyan national remains imprisoned under a death sentence for apostasy, in Misrata;
- in Tripoli, ten Libyans and a foreign national remain imprisoned for peaceful faith-related matters.

We call on Libya to immediately and unconditionally release all those imprisoned for apostasy or peaceful conduct concerning their religion or belief; and abolish the death penalty for matters of conscience, including for peaceful religion or belief related practices, choices or views.

We regret Libya rejected the recommendation to: ‘Repeal Law No. 6 of 2024 and other regulations that restrict freedom of thought, conscience and religion, protect religious and cultural minorities and prevent arbitrary detentions.’

We further call on Libya to ensure the cessation of the use of provisions such as under Articles 206, 207 and 291 of the Libyan Penal Code, and under Law No. 5 of 2022 on Cybercrimes to prosecute and imprison people for peaceful activities or choices concerning religion or belief; and act to respect and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, for everyone.

Thank you.

¹ **Supporting NGOs with ECOSOC status include** The World Evangelical Alliance, Baptist World Alliance and Jubilee Campaign. **Supporting NGOs without ECOSOC status include** Middle East Concern; Open Doors International; The Danish European Mission; Stefanus Alliance International; Hilfe für Mensch und Kirche.