



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 61st Session

Item 10: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral update on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

25 March 2026

Delivered by Anna Hill

Mr President,

The World Evangelical Alliance and its partner—Open Doors International—thank the High Commissioner for his report on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Civilians—particularly Christians—are increasingly targeted by armed groups such as the Allied Democratic Forces, whose stated aim is to eliminate the Christian presence from the region. Last year alone, Open Doors documented 339 Christians killed for their faith in the country, including during religious ceremonies and prayer gatherings. More than 1,000 have been subjected to rape or sexual violence.

Mr President,

The Human Rights Council mandated a Commission of Inquiry into violations in eastern DRC over a year ago. While we welcome the recent appointment of experts, progress has been hindered by delays and insufficient resources.

We urge the Council to prioritize this work and to ensure the Commission is adequately staffed, clearly mandated, and enabled to conduct a visit to the region to assess the situation firsthand.

We further emphasize the importance of addressing violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief, including the targeting of Christians and other religious communities.

Thank you.