

**Question for written answer E-003000/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Exclusion from EQUAL of persecuted Christians around the world

According to the figures compiled in 2024 by the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe, more than 2 400 hate crimes against Christians were recorded in Europe in 2023, an increase of almost 20 % on the previous year.

Globally, according to the World Watch List 2025 by the NGO Porte Aperte/Open Doors, more than 380 million Christians experience a high level of persecution and discrimination for their faith, and that number is constantly growing.

Despite these alarming figures, the latest call for proposals for EQUAL, which is part of the CERV programme and 90 % co-financed by the European Union, focuses its actions exclusively on racism, anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim hatred and discrimination against the LGBT+ community, excluding any reference to discrimination suffered by Christians.

Given the alarming figures and the EU's stated objective of furthering inclusion and equality, it is clear that victims are being treated inconsistently.

In the light of the above:

1. Why are hate crimes against Christians not included in the EQUAL priorities?
2. What does the Commission do to safeguard equal dignity and protection for all religious communities?

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