

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004162/25
to the Commission**

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(22 October 2025)

Subject: Christians are being persecuted and the Commission is doing nothing about it

On 29 September 2025, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States, told the UN General Assembly that 'the data show that Christians are the most persecuted religious group worldwide, and yet the international community seems to be turning a blind eye to their plight'.

Here are three examples of such indifference at EU level:

- the European External Action Service's 2024 activity report ⁽¹⁾ and the 2024 report by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on human rights and democracy in the world ⁽²⁾ both mention religious persecution, but do not even contain the word 'Christian';
 - there are coordinators responsible for combating antisemitism and Islamophobia, but there is no coordinator responsible for combating Christianophobia;
 - the post of Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the EU is currently vacant.
1. Can the Commission explain why there is no mention of the persecution of Christians around the world when such persecution is being publicly condemned and documented?
 2. What is the state of play regarding the appointment of a coordinator responsible for combating Christianophobia?
 3. What is the state of play regarding the appointment of the next Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the EU?

Supporters ⁽³⁾

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Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(11 December 2025)

The Commission refers the Honourable Members to its replies to questions E-000584/2025 ⁽¹⁾ and P-003602/2025 ⁽²⁾.

As explained in its replies, the Commission is determined to respond to acts of violence against Christian believers wherever these acts occur.

The Commission is committed to pursue its action to address the safety of places of worship, to monitor hatred based on religion, and to address attacks or discrimination against persons because of their religion or belief, regardless of whether the victims belong to majority or minority religious groups

Freedom of religion or belief remains a priority of the EU's external human rights policy. The EU raised its concerns regarding violations of freedom of religion or belief in several bilateral human rights dialogues with third countries, and during visits of the EU Special Representative for human rights.

The EU's commitment to protecting and promoting freedom of religion or belief is anchored in multilateralism and based on the principles of equality, non-discrimination and universality.

In the United Nations (UN) human rights fora, the EU leads in presenting annual resolutions on freedom of religion or belief. The EU supports and cooperates with the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, and with like-minded countries within the International Contact Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

As regards the appointment of a Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief, the Commission understands the urgency of filling and reinforcing this position as swiftly as possible.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025/documents/AAR_2024_FINAL.pdf

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/2024-annual-report-human-rights-and-democracy-world_en

³ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Julien Leonardelli (PFE), Catherine Griset (PFE).

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000584_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-003602-ASW_EN.html.

The Commission has decided to renew the position, and the process of selection of the Envoy is ongoing. The Envoy will ensure that the rights of all religious groups, including Christians, are upheld.
