



2021/2055(INI)

7.9.2021

AMENDMENTS

1 - 83

Draft opinion
György Hölvényi
(PE695.343v01-00)

The persecution of minorities on the grounds of belief or religion
(2021/2055(INI))

Amendment 1

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph -1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

-1. whereas women of belief and religious minorities are particularly at risk of increased discrimination and violence linked to intersectional factors such as gender, caste, ethnic background, power imbalances and patriarchy;

Or. en

Amendment 2

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph -1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

-1 a. whereas minorities on the ground of belief or religion often lack adequate national representation in developing countries and legislation often excludes the needs and interests of these minorities, with local governments employing a range of extra-legal measures that persecute, delegitimise or stigmatise minorities on the ground of belief or religion;

Or. en

Amendment 3

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph -1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

-1 b. whereas the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated persecution and violence against belief and religious minorities in some countries; whereas furthermore the health crisis is likely to provide an excuse to adopt persecution measures for purposes unrelated to the fight against the pandemic; whereas belief and religious minorities have become particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 infection and mortality due to unequal access to adequate medical care;

Or. en

Amendment 4

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph -1 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

-1 c. whereas social media platforms are increasingly exploited as spaces for incitement to hatred and violence; whereas belief or religious minorities continue to be subject to hate speech online and offline from individuals across the political spectrum;

Or. en

Amendment 5

Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

Amendment

1. Acknowledges that churches, faith-based organisations (FBOs) and religious associations have a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering

1. Acknowledges that churches, ***in particular Christian churches and especially the Catholic Church and its informal associations of the faithful, certain*** faith-based organisations (FBOs)

humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4; further notes that churches and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced;

and religious associations have a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4 ***because of the values they spread in society and the essential role of faith in the lives of many people in some developing countries***; further notes that churches and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced;

Or. fr

Amendment 6

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Acknowledges that ***churches, faith-based organisations (FBOs) and religious associations have*** a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, ***are*** important ***partners*** in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular ***SDGs 3 and 4***; ***further notes that churches and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced***;

Amendment

1. Acknowledges that ***civil society as a whole has*** a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, ***is an*** important ***partner*** in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular social services ***corresponding to SDGs 3 (good health and well-being) and 4 (quality education)***;

Or. en

Amendment 7

Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Acknowledges that **churches**, faith-based organisations (FBOs) **and** religious associations have a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4; **further notes that churches and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced;**

Amendment

1. Acknowledges that faith-based organisations (FBOs), religious associations **and non-confessional organisations alike** have a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4;

Or. en

Amendment 8

Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Acknowledges that **churches**, faith-based organisations (FBOs) and religious associations have a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4; further notes that **churches** and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced;

Amendment

1. **Recalls that freedom of belief and religion are fundamental human rights, enshrined in the EU Charter of fundamental rights and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights; recognizes the importance of freedom of belief and freedom of religion for an inclusive society and for the full and entire achievement of the 2030 SDGs;** acknowledges that **institutions of and places of worship**, faith-based organisations (FBOs) and religious associations have a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and **can** greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4;

further notes that *institutions and places of worship* and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced;

Or. en

Amendment 9

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Acknowledges that churches, faith-based organisations (FBOs) **and** religious associations have a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4; further notes that churches and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced;

Amendment

1. Acknowledges that churches, faith-based organisations (FBOs), religious associations **and institutions** have a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4; further notes that churches, **religious institutions** and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced; **recalls in this regards the need to provide FBOs and religious associations with adequate resources in ODA and national budgets in order to support them in carrying out these services;**

Or. en

Amendment 10

Beata Kempa, Ryszard Czarnecki
on behalf of the ECR Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Acknowledges that churches, faith-

Amendment

1. Acknowledges that churches, faith-

based organisations (FBOs) and religious associations have a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities **and greatly contribute** to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4; further notes that churches and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced;

based organisations (FBOs) and religious associations have a major role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities ***because they are on the front line, work closely with people on the ground and know their needs best, and are therefore best placed to deliver aid and make a significant contribution*** to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4; further notes that churches and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced;

Or. pl

Amendment 11 **Janina Ochojska**

Draft opinion **Paragraph 1**

Draft opinion

1. Acknowledges that churches, faith-based organisations (FBOs) and religious associations ***have a major*** role in the social fabric of developing countries, are important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4; further notes that churches and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced;

Amendment

1. Acknowledges that churches, faith-based organisations (FBOs) and religious associations ***play a*** role in the social fabric of developing countries, are ***- next to NGOs, civil society organisations and humanitarian organisations -*** important partners in delivering humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach communities and greatly contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 3 and 4; further notes that churches and FBOs deliver in social sectors where shortcomings in state services are experienced;

Or. en

Amendment 12 **Dominique Bilde**

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Notes, however, that the term 'faith-based organisations' encompasses a very heterogeneous set of organisations, including 'large faith-based organisations in the West that tend to resemble secular NGOs in terms of policies and programmes', but also 'formal, independent NGOs with (more or less) close links to a religious community or tradition', as is the case, for example, with the Islamic faith-based organisations, Islamic Relief;^{1 a}

1 a

https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/15397/624_Faith_Based%20Organisations_Synthesis.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y " Faith-based organisations and current development debates, Rachel Cooper, University of Birmingham, 17 June 2019, commissioned by the UK Department for International Development and other Government departments (K4D helpdesk).

Or. fr

Amendment 13
Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Recalls that combatting discrimination against all minorities regardless of their traditions, belief or religion, and promoting and protecting their rights, contribute vastly to social and

political stability, poverty reduction, democratic governance, and conflict prevention;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Stresses that freedom of religion or belief should be understood as a fundamental right, rejecting the trend to see it as inimical to women's, LGBTQI rights or freedom of expression, and should be acknowledged as a key component of peaceful and resilient societies;

Or. en

Amendment 15
György Hölvényi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Takes note that churches play a critical role to ensure peace as a mediator and are contributing to social cohesion and stability also as providers of basic social services;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 b. Considers that freedom of belief and freedom of religion is only possible with the assurance of personal and human freedom, including the right to sexual and reproductive health and the right to self-determination, regardless of origin or sexual orientation;

Or. en

Amendment 17
György Hölvényi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 b. Notes that young people in developing countries are particular vulnerable to extremist ideologies and quality education is key to combat radicalisation; notes that extremist movements often exploit the weak presence of the State in rural areas;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 b. Underlines that FBOs occupy a strategically important position to influence and impact members of their communities to come to a position of

understanding and advocacy on crucial issues such as HIV and the empowerment of women;

Or. en

Amendment 19

Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 c. Condemns the criminalization and other punitive treatment of minority traditions in legal systems through the instrumentalisation of religion; Condemns the use of religion and religious interpretation to the detriment of human rights, through the institutional persecution of belief- or religious minorities and for the legal and social restriction of sexual health and of gender and sexuality;

Or. en

Amendment 20

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Recognises that FBOs cover approximately 40 % of healthcare and a significant part of education in sub-Saharan Africa alone¹, while their role remains mostly unrecognised;

deleted

¹

Amendment 21

Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Recognises that FBOs cover approximately 40 % of healthcare and a significant part of education in sub-Saharan Africa alone¹, while their role remains mostly unrecognised;

1

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/43884/9789241596626_eng.pdf

Amendment

2. Recognises that FBOs cover approximately 40 % of healthcare and a significant part of education in sub-Saharan Africa alone¹, while their role remains mostly unrecognised; ***emphasizes that healthcare and education provided by FBOs must be provided to all persons in need, regardless of their religious background, ethnicity, gender or orientation; condemns the severe restrictions on sexual and reproductive healthcare by religious institutions and associations, which are translated into restrictive laws and penal codes;***

1

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/43884/9789241596626_eng.pdf

Amendment 22

György Hölvényi

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Recognises that FBOs cover approximately 40 % of healthcare and a

Amendment

2. Recognises that FBOs cover approximately 40 % of healthcare and a

significant part of education in sub-Saharan Africa alone¹ , while their role remains mostly unrecognised;

1

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/43884/9789241596626_eng.pdf

significant part of education in sub-Saharan Africa alone¹ , while their role remains mostly unrecognised, ***underlines that churches and faith based organisations are contributing to human development;***

1

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/43884/9789241596626_eng.pdf

Or. en

Amendment 23 **Antoni Comín i Oliveres**

Draft opinion **Paragraph 2**

Draft opinion

2. Recognises that FBOs cover approximately 40 % of healthcare and a significant part of education in sub-Saharan Africa alone¹ , ***while their role remains mostly unrecognised;***

1

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/43884/9789241596626_eng.pdf

Amendment

2. Recognises that FBOs cover approximately 40 % of healthcare and a significant part of education in sub-Saharan Africa alone¹; ***stresses that public services such as healthcare and education should always be guaranteed by the State, in line with SDG 4;***

1

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/43884/9789241596626_eng.pdf

Or. en

Amendment 24 **Dominique Bilde**

Draft opinion **Paragraph 2 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Notes, however, that for the purposes of granting any public funding

to faith-based organisations, the European Union and the Member States must exercise discernment and vigilance by refraining from supporting, directly or indirectly, any organisation which is based on values and principles that are manifestly incompatible with those promoted by the European Union (particularly in relation to the status of women), or whose main objective is religious proselytism rather than charity, or which is sectarian in its purpose or activities, for example by not providing support to members of certain religious minorities;

Or. fr

Amendment 25

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Urges the EU to recognise that religious leaders and faith-based organisations are not only key partners in the implementation of humanitarian, development and peace projects, but also have a privileged role in the design, monitoring and evaluation of such initiatives, due to their expertise based on their deep embeddedness in local communities, their direct contact with people experiencing poverty and exclusion, as well as their long history of providing humanitarian assistance;

Or. en

Amendment 26

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. *Stresses that the persecution of minorities on grounds of religion or belief is often intertwined with some other grounds of distinct nature, in particular those linked to ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and caste; calls on the EU to ensure that in all contexts the intersection of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief with other drivers of exclusion, marginalisation and poverty are clearly mapped and addressed comprehensively;*

Or. en

Amendment 27
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 b. *Regrets, in this respect, that the European Commission has mentioned in its list of NGOs certified as humanitarian partners as of 2 August 2021 the NGOs 'Islamic Relief Sverige' and 'Islamic Relief Humanitäre Organisation in Deutschland e.V.', since these NGOs refer explicitly on their respective websites to the NGO 'Islamic Relief Worldwide',^{2 a} which is classified as 'a terrorist organisation' in the United Arab Emirates^{2 b} and whose Egyptian organisation is said to have been founded by 'prominent members of the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt'^{2 c} and, therefore, calls on the European Commission to exercise reasonable vigilance in the selection of its humanitarian partners;*

2 a

<https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/default/files/weblistpartners.pdf> <https://islamic-relief.se/om-oss/historia/>
<https://www.islamicrelief.de/wer-wir-sind/>

2 b https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/islamic_relief_worldwide_irw/

2 c

<https://www.meforum.org/61740/islamic-relief-subsidizes-terror>

Or. fr

Amendment 28
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 c. Notes that the European Union and the Member States must exercise greater vigilance with regard to the granting of public funding to NGOs and in particular to faith-based organisations operating in conflict zones, especially in areas where Islamist terrorist groups are active;

Or. fr

Amendment 29
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 d. Notes the essential role of the Catholic Church in health care in Africa, through the large number of Catholic health facilities, and notes that, according

to the Vatican in 2012, 'organisations linked to the Catholic Church provide about 25% of all HIV treatment, care and support in the world', making the Catholic Church a notable interlocutor in the fight against and elimination of HIV/AIDS in Africa and globally; ^{3 a}

^{3 a}

<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/press-centre/featurestories/2012/april/20120411afaithbasedresponsetohiv>

Or. fr

Amendment 30
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 e. Stresses, however, that since the 1970s in particular, some faith-based organisations from certain Islamic countries may have contributed to the rise of radical Islam (or a literal interpretation of Islam), particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and that such organisations should not seek to enter into conflict or be at odds with central States in some of their areas of competence (particularly with regard to education, for example through the funding of 'madrasas' in Africa, which are sometimes suspected of 'promoting more conservative forms of Islam'); ^{4 a}

^{4 a}

https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/15397/624_Faith_Based%20Organisations_Synthesis.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y " Faith-based organisations and current development debates, Rachel Cooper, University of

*Birmingham, 17 June 2019,
commissioned by the UK Department for
International Development and other
Government departments (K4D helpdesk).*

Or. fr

Amendment 31
Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that churches and FBOs are frequently the only providers of healthcare and other social services in remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa and in conflict-prone settings such as northern Mozambique and other crisis zones;

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 32
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that churches and FBOs are frequently the only providers of healthcare and other social services in remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa and in conflict-prone settings such as northern Mozambique and other crisis zones;

Amendment

3. Notes that churches and FBOs are frequently the only providers of healthcare and other social services in remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa and in conflict-prone settings such as northern Mozambique and other crisis zones *and that the importance of faith in social life makes local churches essential partners in reaching certain populations in remote areas;*

Or. fr

Amendment 33
Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that **churches and** FBOs are **frequently** the only providers of healthcare and other social services in remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa and in conflict-prone settings such as northern Mozambique and other crisis zones;

Amendment

3. Notes that FBOs are **sometimes** the only providers of healthcare and other social services in remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa and in conflict-prone settings such as northern Mozambique and other crisis zones;

Or. en

Amendment 34
Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that **churches** and FBOs are frequently the only providers of healthcare and other social services in remote areas **of sub-Saharan Africa and** in conflict-prone settings **such as northern Mozambique and other** crisis zones;

Amendment

3. Notes that **institutions and places of worship** and FBOs are frequently the only providers of healthcare, and other social services in remote areas, in conflict-prone settings **and in** crisis zones;

Or. en

Amendment 35
Beata Kempa, Ryszard Czarnecki
on behalf of the ECR Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that churches and FBOs are

Amendment

3. Notes that churches and FBOs are

frequently the only providers of healthcare and other social services in remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa and in conflict-prone settings such as northern Mozambique and other crisis zones;

frequently the only providers of healthcare and other social services in remote areas of ***Syria, Iraq and*** sub-Saharan Africa, and in conflict-prone settings such as northern Mozambique and other crisis zones;

Or. pl

Amendment 36

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that churches and FBOs are frequently the only providers of healthcare and other social services in remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa and in conflict-prone settings such as northern Mozambique and other crisis zones;

Amendment

3. Notes that churches, ***religious institutions*** and FBOs are frequently the only providers of healthcare and other social services in remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa and in conflict-prone settings such as northern Mozambique and other crisis zones;

Or. en

Amendment 37

Beata Kempa, Ryszard Czarnecki

on behalf of the ECR Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the activities of churches and religious leaders in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and peace; highlights that inter-religious dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace and reconciliation;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the activities of churches and religious leaders in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and peace; highlights that inter-religious dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace and reconciliation; ***stresses that religious and faith-based organisations are now present at every stage of the conflict-transformation cycle as they work in peace education and***

conflict prevention, in mediation and conflict resolution, in inter-religious dialogue, in building networks of local leaders for peace, in post-settlement social reconstruction and trauma work, and in the academies and courts where human rights, including religious freedom, are given theoretical depth and cross-cultural grounding;

Or. pl

Amendment 38
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the activities of churches and religious leaders in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and peace; highlights that inter-religious dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace and reconciliation;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the activities of churches and *certain* religious leaders, *in particular those of the Catholic Church*, in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and peace; highlights that inter-religious dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace and reconciliation, *but that it must take place within the framework defined by the competent national authorities;*

Or. fr

Amendment 39
Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the activities of *churches* and religious leaders in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and

Amendment

4. Welcomes the activities of *FBOs* and religious leaders in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and

peace; highlights that inter-religious dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace and reconciliation;

peace, **and the inclusion of religious minorities as part of the EU's external push for peace, democracy and sustainable development**; highlights that inter-religious dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace and reconciliation;

Or. en

Amendment 40

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the activities of **churches and religious leaders** in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and peace; highlights that **inter-religious** dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace and reconciliation;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the activities of **inter-faith initiatives, including non-religious, secular, humanists and atheists organisations** in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and peace; highlights that **such inter-faith** dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace and reconciliation;

Or. en

Amendment 41

Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the activities of **churches** and religious leaders in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and peace; highlights that inter-religious dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict

Amendment

4. Welcomes the activities of **institutions and places of worship** and religious leaders in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and peace; highlights that inter-religious

areas, to foster peace **and** reconciliation;

dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace, reconciliation **and an inclusive society on all levels**;

Or. en

Amendment 42

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the activities of churches and religious leaders in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and peace; highlights that inter-religious dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace and reconciliation;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the activities of churches, **religious institutions** and religious leaders in the field of conflict management and mediation, and in fostering reconciliation, dialogue and peace; highlights that inter-religious dialogue is crucial, notably in conflict areas, to foster peace and reconciliation;

Or. en

Amendment 43

György Hölvényi

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Recognises that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated persecution and violence against religious minorities in some of the developing countries; denounces the use of freedom-restricting measures as part of pandemic-prevention measures to discriminate against religious minorities; calls on partner developing countries to develop inclusive social protection systems that do not discriminate against minorities on religious grounds or on any other grounds in terms of equal access to health

care, food, humanitarian assistance or education; calls on the EU to better equip itself with instruments that enable it to better target the most vulnerable populations, including religious minorities;

Or. en

Amendment 44
Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. *Strongly deplores that non-religious, and secular and humanist organizations are facing growing persecution, including unprecedented waves of incitement to hatred and killings, in a number of countries worldwide; denounces as well that countless individuals and civil society organisations are under assault for peacefully questioning, criticizing or satirizing religious beliefs; stresses that this ongoing violation of their freedom of thought and of expression occurs across geographic and cultural borders, including within EU Member States;*

Or. en

Amendment 45
Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. *Reminds institutions and places of*

worship, FBOs and religious leaders of their responsibility and role in preventing hatred and violence directed towards religious or belief minorities; calls on all institutions and places of worship, FBOs and religious leaders to promote a tolerant and non-discriminatory discourse and to contribute to constructive exchanges between communities, regardless of their belief or religion, minority and majority alike;

Or. en

Amendment 46
Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Calls on the EU and its partners to consider a mapping of the role religion has in any specific conflict, the identification and engagement with existing positive actions of religious leaders in peace-building actions, conflict analysis and prevention, and the listening and assessment of multiple voices representatives of both majority and minority religious groups;

Or. en

Amendment 47
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Stresses, however, that interreligious dialogue should not be construed as including any organisations

deemed to be extremist or fundamentalist, in particular those that propagate radical Islam or challenge the foundations of the rule of law or certain fundamental rights or principles, in particular with regard to the status of women;

Or. fr

Amendment 48
György Hölvényi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 b. Acknowledges the special role which religious leaders, faith-based organizations, and faith communities play in COVID-19 education, preparedness, and response; notes that religious leaders are integrated into their communities through service and compassionate networks and are often able to reach the most vulnerable with assistance and health information and identify those most in need; notes that religious leaders are a critical link in the safety net for vulnerable people within their faith community and wider communities;

Or. en

Amendment 49
Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 b. Condemns activities from religious cults addressed to the diaspora from developing countries which use schemes

to profit financially from the vulnerabilities of migrant communities in Europe and promote biased worldviews, often integrating homophobia, transphobia and misogyny;

Or. en

Amendment 50
Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 c. Denounces all forms of violence and coercion, including public expression of hostility by religious leaders, perpetrated against women, girls and LGBT+ persons justified with reference to religious practice or belief; calls for the repeal of discriminatory laws, enacted with reference to religious considerations, that criminalize adultery, that criminalize persons on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, that criminalize abortion in all cases or that facilitate religious practices that violate human rights;

Or. en

Amendment 51
Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 d. Deplores the ongoing rollback and regression on sexual and reproductive

health and rights of women and girls, especially those marginalised on the grounds of superstition (e.g., witchcraft), and rights of LGBT+ persons inside and outside the EU, notably under the guise of religious principles or doctrine; notes that intersectional factors, including religion and belonging to minority groups, increase the risk of discrimination under this regressive trend;

Or. en

Amendment 52
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to make the fight against the persecution of religious minorities a priority in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Amendment

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to make the fight against the persecution of religious minorities, ***especially Christian minorities***, a priority in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe ***and calls on the Member States to include the issue of the persecution of Christians in their diplomatic dialogue with the States concerned;***

Or. fr

Amendment 53
Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Calls on the Commission and the

Amendment

5. Calls on the Commission and the

Council to make the fight against the persecution of **religious** minorities a priority in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Council to make the fight against the persecution of minorities **on the grounds of religion or belief** a priority in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe; **in this regard, calls on the Commission to support civil society organizations and social campaigns and programmes that promote understanding and awareness of non-majority religion and belief groups, especially humanists and atheists in countries where they face particularly serious forms of discrimination;**

Or. en

Amendment 54

Beata Kempa, Ryszard Czarnecki
on behalf of the ECR Group

Draft opinion **Paragraph 5**

Draft opinion

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to make the fight against the persecution of religious minorities a priority in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Amendment

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to make the fight against the persecution of religious minorities – **in particular the persecution of Christians, who are currently the most frequently persecuted religious group in the world** – a priority in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Or. pl

Amendment 55

Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to make the fight against the persecution of religious minorities a priority in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Amendment

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council ***to assist in providing support to stronger political strategies and longer-term accountability and*** to make the fight against the persecution of religious ***and other*** minorities a priority in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Or. en

Amendment 56

Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to ***make*** the fight against the persecution of religious minorities ***a priority*** in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Amendment

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to ***continue*** the fight against the persecution of religious minorities ***and to prioritize, promote and protect freedom of belief, assembly, expression and speech*** in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Or. en

Amendment 57

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to make the fight against the persecution of religious minorities a priority in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Amendment

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to make the fight against the persecution of religious ***and belief*** minorities a priority in the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Or. en

Amendment 58
Janina Ochojska

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to ***make*** the fight against the persecution of religious minorities ***a priority in*** the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Amendment

5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to ***include*** the fight against the persecution of religious minorities ***into*** the programming of activities related to EU development assistance, in line with the areas of cooperation for geographic and thematic programmes of NDICI-Global Europe;

Or. en

Amendment 59
Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Recognizes that LGBTQI+ communities are a part of faith traditions; Recognizes that as all human beings, LGBTQI+ persons have a right to freedom of expression, speech, belief and

religion; reiterates the importance of the role that religious authorities can play to ensure that religion and tradition are not utilized to discriminate, criminalize or exclude persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity;

Or. en

Amendment 60
Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Stresses that the EU should take into account the concrete challenges that religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities often face when accessing humanitarian assistance due to marginalization, active targeting on the ground or weak socio-economic position; calls on the Commission to assess the effective access of minorities to humanitarian assistance and to ensure that its humanitarian policy does not overlook minorities;

Or. en

Amendment 61
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Stresses that, according to the NGO Open Doors, more than 340 million Christians worldwide face persecution and discrimination on account of their faith and that this situation has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic and that, furthermore, more than nine out of ten

cases of Christians being killed due to their faith in 2020 were on African soil;
5 a

5 a

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/13/christian-persecution-rises-as-people-refused-aid-in-covid-crisis-report>

Or. fr

Amendment 62
Janina Ochojska

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. 5a. Points out that violence against religious minorities during conflict can also make them vulnerable to further attacks in refugee settings due to misinterpretations of humanitarian principles of neutrality and universality and widespread assumptions held about religion as either non-essential or divisive;

Or. en

Amendment 63
György Hölvényi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Underlines that delivering humanitarian assistance must be free from any kind of discrimination, and strongly condemns any discrimination based on religious affiliation in distributing humanitarian assistance;

Amendment 64

Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 b. Calls on the EU and its Member States to strengthen legal and institutional protection mechanisms to ensure that human rights of members of minorities on the basis of belief and religion, as well as those of women, children and members of the LGBTQI+ community are ensured and to guarantee that others in vulnerable situations, such as migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons are fully protected on the basis of their fundamental rights and are not subjected to discrimination on the basis of their belief or religion;

Or. en

Amendment 65

György Hölvényi

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 b. Notes that local churches and FBOs have a strong social embeddedness and a deep knowledge of local sensitivities and needs which is a high added value to EU cooperation in developing countries; therefore calls on the Commission and the EU Delegations to engage with local churches and FBOs in the planning of humanitarian interventions and development actions, and calls on the

Commission to involve churches and FBOs in the implementation of EU projects;

Or. en

Amendment 66
Janina Ochojska

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 b. Is of the opinion that humanitarian actors should be trained in the sensitivities of religious identity for religious minority groups in displacement settings to enhance more inclusive aid and protection for a range of refugee populations;

Or. en

Amendment 67
Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. Calls on the EU to develop the necessary reaction and sanction mechanisms to combat effectively violations of freedom of religion or belief, including discrimination or legal restrictions based on religion or belief in its partner countries, as well as any kind of impediment to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of association and freedom of expression.

6. Calls on the EU to develop the necessary reaction and sanction mechanisms to combat effectively violations of freedom of religion or belief, including discrimination or legal restrictions based on religion or belief in its partner countries, as well as any kind of impediment to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of association and freedom of expression, ***as well as the misuse and instrumentalisation of religion to undermine other human rights, including SRHR and the rights of LGBTI persons;***

Amendment 68

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Calls on the EU to develop the necessary reaction and sanction mechanisms to combat effectively violations of freedom of religion or belief, including discrimination or legal restrictions based on religion or belief in its partner countries, as well as any kind of impediment to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Amendment

6. Calls on the EU to develop the necessary reaction and sanction mechanisms ***as provided for by the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime*** to combat effectively ***serious*** violations of freedom of religion or belief, including discrimination or legal restrictions based on religion or belief in its partner countries, as well as any kind of impediment to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of association and freedom of expression;

Or. en

Amendment 69

Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Charles Goerens, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Barry Andrews

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Calls on the EU to develop ***the necessary*** reaction and sanction mechanisms to combat effectively violations of freedom of religion or belief, including discrimination or legal restrictions based on religion or belief in its partner countries, as well as any kind of impediment to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Amendment

6. Calls on the EU to develop ***an adequate accountability,*** reaction and sanction mechanisms to combat effectively violations of freedom of religion or belief, including discrimination or legal restrictions based on religion or belief in its partner countries, as well as any kind of impediment to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Or. en

Amendment 70

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Calls on the EU to develop the necessary reaction and sanction mechanisms to combat effectively violations of freedom of religion or belief, including discrimination or legal restrictions based on religion or belief in its partner countries, as well as any kind of impediment to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Amendment

6. Calls on the EU to develop the necessary reaction and sanction mechanisms to combat effectively violations of freedom of religion or belief, including discrimination or legal restrictions based on religion or belief in its partner countries, as well as any kind of impediment to freedom of **thought**, religion or belief, freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Or. en

Amendment 71

Janina Ochojska

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Calls on the EU to develop the necessary reaction **and sanction mechanisms** to combat effectively violations of freedom of religion or belief, including discrimination or legal restrictions based on religion or belief in its partner countries, as well as any kind of impediment to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Amendment

6. Calls on the EU to develop the necessary reaction to combat effectively violations of freedom of religion or belief, including discrimination or legal restrictions based on religion or belief in its partner countries, as well as any kind of impediment to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Or. en

Amendment 72

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Recalls that the political and legal separation of religion and State is a prerequisite for the full enjoyment of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law; calls on the EU to ensure that its development programmes and budget support to national and local authorities in third countries are consistent with the principles of secularism, including in the field of education, and strictly refrain from reinforcing government legislation and policies that favour one belief or religious group over others;

Or. en

Amendment 73
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Calls on the European Union and, in particular, the Member States to provide concrete and commensurate support to the African states concerned in the fight against Islamist terrorism, in particular the G5 Sahel states, and stresses in this regard the very difficult situation of Christian minorities in this region of Africa, for example in Burkina Faso, due to Islamist terrorist violence. ^{6 a}

^{6 a}

<https://www.portesouvertes.fr/persecution-des-chretiens/profils-pays/burkina-faso-fc6bb232-2f3c-4508-99d3-33a8410bdecb>

Amendment 74

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Stresses the need to eliminate discrimination against religious and belief minorities in the field of employment, education, access to justice and effective remedies, housing, and healthcare; underlines the need to work with human rights institutions and organisations to monitor the compliance, examine complaints and contrast laws and policies that discriminate or persecute minorities on the ground of belief or religion;

Or. en

Amendment 75

Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Points out that, in some countries, the main sources of discrimination against minorities come from non-State actors; calls on the Commission and Member States not to focus exclusively on government-based discrimination and to work with partner countries in tackling the causes of societal discrimination against minorities, with special regard to hate speech;

Or. en

Amendment 76
György Hölvényi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Calls on the Commission and the EEAS to mainstream, in the EU's external actions, the protection of freedom of religion and belief, as well as the right to change or abandon one's religion and belief without coercion, notably in developing countries;

Or. en

Amendment 77
Beata Kempa, Ryszard Czarnecki
on behalf of the ECR Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Calls on the Commission to link the issue of religious freedom with trade treaties concluded between the European Union and its external partners;

Or. pl

Amendment 78
György Hölvényi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. Notes that persecution of religious minorities endangers not only human lives, human rights and human development but also cultural heritage,

calls on the Commission to integrate the protection of cultural heritage in all the relevant dimensions of the EU toolbox, notably in development cooperation, and calls for appropriate financial support for the protection of cultural heritage in the programming exercise of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) –Global Europe;

Or. en

Amendment 79

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. Condemns human rights violations, sexual abuse, sectarianism, as well as financial misconduct of religious missions and leaders in several developing countries; calls on the European Commission to undertake a comprehensive mapping and monitoring of religious missions on site to ensure that these structures act with respect for the local population and avoid any type of violation or abuse;

Or. en

Amendment 80

Beata Kempa, Ryszard Czarnecki

on behalf of the ECR Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. Emphasises that, as the first

organisations on the ground with many years of experience, FBOs provide essential social services and remain on the ground when many other actors leave; calls on the Commission to adopt special guidance on partnership and cooperation with churches and FBOs when it comes to development- and humanitarian assistance;

Or. pl

Amendment 81

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. *Calls on the Council, the Commission, the EEAS and Member States to work with third countries towards the adoption of measures to prevent and fight hate crimes, in full compliance with international standards on freedom of expression and freedom of belief and religion;*

Or. en

Amendment 82

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 c. *Underlines the importance of civil society initiatives in tackling the persecution of minorities on the ground of belief and religion, and in promoting a holistic approach that encompasses human rights, conflict resolution, human development, as well as interfaith and*

interreligious initiatives;

Or. en

Amendment 83

Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho, Pierfrancesco Majorino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 d. Stresses the need for churches, religious institutions and religious communities to respect, uphold and promote fundamental human rights, while opposing, at any levels, all attempts to jeopardize or deny these rights, especially in relation to the condition of minors, women, the elderly, the most vulnerable and marginalized, and other ethnic, social or religious minorities;

Or. en