



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

47th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Stakeholder's submission on Qatar

Submitted by: Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) (NGO in Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC)

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Universal Periodic Review of the State of Qatar

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The Anglican Communion is a global network of Christian churches operating in more than 165 countries and organised into 42 Provinces. The Anglican Consultative Council is one of the instruments helping to coordinate the Communion. The Anglican Consultative Council has held ECOSOC consultative status since 1985.

This written submission has been produced by consultation between staff of the Anglican Consultative Council's United Nations team and the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, part of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, one of the member churches of the Anglican Communion.

1. The Anglican Church in Qatar wishes to express our thanks to the government of Qatar for welcoming us as guests under the tent of Abraham.
2. We congratulate the government of Qatar for opening the country 20 years ago to formalised churches for the first time since the 7th century.
3. We thank the government of Qatar for the security provided to the Church Complex, offering protection to the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Indian and Anglican Churches within. The Anglican Centre is now hosting 94 guest churches, most led by Global South communities; and 60,050 people were able to visit the Church Complex in June 2023.
4. We congratulate the government of Qatar for its improving trend in the care of migrant workers.

We encourage the government of Qatar to continue progress in the following areas:

5. We encourage the government of Qatar to continue its openness to our expressions of Christian faith and reopen the worship centres in Dukhan and Al Khor, which were closed during the Covid pandemic.
6. We encourage the government of Qatar to build another religious complex in the Lusail area, as this will help alleviate the congestion currently being experienced by those seeking Christian worship.
7. We encourage the government of Qatar to work with the countries of origin of migrant workers who arrive in Qatar having been promised jobs that do not exist, in order to eliminate this practice. Many workers have paid false agents (who promise work in Qatar) lots of money, only to arrive in Qatar to discover there is no employment for them. This exploitation of the workers by criminal groups is a source of great suffering.
8. We encourage the government of Qatar to extend the freedoms offered to Christians that are visiting or resident in the country, allowing them freedom to meet and access to the Religious Complex. This would meet Qatar's own commitments after Qatar signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
9. We encourage investment in the provision of Arabic language classes to help foreign migrant workers communicate, obtain healthcare, and enjoy a better quality of life in Qatar.