

European Evangelicals in Public Life

Our Identity and Contribution

Why This Statement Is Needed

Different faith and worldview perspectives have always been an important part of the intellectual and political life of Europe. For centuries, Evangelicalism has brought a positive contribution to the common good. However, recently, the term “Evangelical” has become increasingly associated in public discourse with radical Right politics, including dynamics that originate outside our continent. Many factors contribute to the confusion, including some media coverage from the United States, the use of “evangelical” as a political label and exclusionary nationalism sometimes being fused with Christian identity. This makes it challenging for the media and politicians to distinguish what Evangelicals in Europe are like. In addition, there are some political voices which refuse to tolerate dissent on certain issues and sow suspicion against those who disagree with them. In some contexts, Evangelicals are described as dangerous extremists. It is natural that journalists might pick up these themes. However, while we do not always get things right, these portrayals profoundly misrepresent who we are.



The European Evangelical Alliance¹, the representative body of national Evangelical Alliances and many organisations, wishes to give a clear explanation of who Europe’s Evangelicals are and how we engage in public life.

We are Good News People

Firstly, Evangelicals in Europe are part of the 2000-year Christian tradition, with our distinctive identity emerging through the Protestant Reformation and Evangelical revivals of subsequent centuries. The

¹ <https://www.europeanea.org/>

roots of the word are about the Gospel – the “Evangel” – the Good News. There are Evangelical Christians in every Protestant church denomination, and a few beyond that. The sense of Evangelical unity as a more visible expression across denominations started in 1846, with the creation of the Evangelical Alliance. Today, there are 20-25 million Evangelicals across Europe.

European Evangelicals are united by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the call to love God and neighbour. It is our honour, passion and Christian duty to share the Good News of Jesus with others. We are rooted in biblical foundations and especially committed to the life, example, and teaching of Jesus. Our movement is diverse, multi-ethnic and part of a community which spans the globe. We celebrate the richness of cultures and backgrounds within the Evangelical Church family.

We believe in holistic mission

- sharing our faith with grace,
- sharing the love, hope, and saving power of Jesus,
- promoting justice, peace, truth and reconciliation²,
- contributing to the common good and the flourishing of society and environment³,

Around the world, this has led to the establishment and strengthening of much social reform, including literacy, education, healthcare and the dignity of women.

Famous Evangelicals who have been outstanding contributors to society, include Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, pioneering educator John Amos Comenius from the Czech Republic, Josephine Butler, British campaigner against the exploitation of women and girls, Hans Nielsen Hauge, Norwegian business entrepreneur & social reformer. Abraham Kuyper, Dutch Prime Minister & journalist. Elizabeth Fry, British prison reformer or Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen, German cooperative banking pioneer. Evangelicals still believe that their faith is relevant to life on earth. We wish to engage in every sphere of society, sharing ideas, as well as contributing practically.



² See for example https://www.europeanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026-05_EEA-Soc-pol-AEI_Justice-and-Peace.pdf “Justice & Peace Kiss Each Other”, Evangelical Alliance of Italy

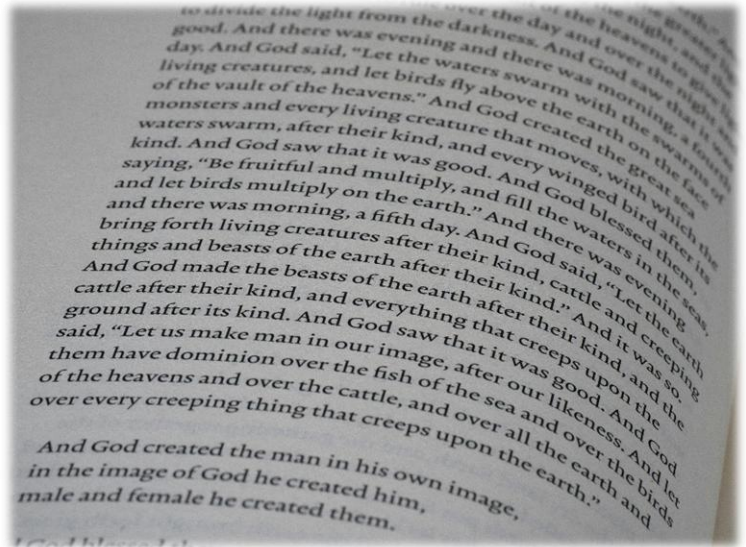
³ The monetary value of the volunteer contribution of Evangelical projects that serve the wider community is immense.

Human Dignity: The Imago Dei

Because we believe every person is made in the image of God, Evangelicals value every human being.

This shapes our concerns for all, including

- migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees⁴,
- the poor, the prisoner, the marginalised and other misunderstood groups⁵,
- the unborn, children, youth, disabled, elderly, and dying⁶,
- victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, other abuse and violence⁷,
- religious minorities and anyone discriminated against for their beliefs⁸,
- people affected by addiction, loneliness, mental distress or social exclusion⁹.



Our concern for people also explains our concern for healthy relationships, including within marriage¹⁰ and family.

All of this is not a political ideology but a consistent ethic of human dignity.

Our Contribution to Society

Evangelicals contribute to European societies in their working, volunteering and giving, far beyond what you would expect from their numbers. Across the continent, Evangelicals care in so many ways, including

- feeding the hungry, providing healthcare, sheltering the homeless or assisting refugees¹¹,

⁴ For example, multiple refugee projects <https://rhpeurope.net/>

⁵ For example, empowering the Roma community <https://gypsymissions.org/>

⁶ For example, elderly & stroke care <https://cb.cz/diakonie/bethesda/>, youth mentoring <https://younglife.bg/about/> or special needs support <https://www.soulcraft.mk/> or <https://europeandisabilitynetwork.com/ministries/>

⁷ For example, domestic abuse prevention & response <https://www.restored-uk.org/> or anti-trafficking & exploitation organisations <https://europeanfreedomnetwork.org/>

⁸ For example, the European Evangelical Alliances call to actions against anti-Muslim hatred and antisemitism <https://www.europeanea.org/a-civil-public-square-resources/>

⁹ For example, support for those with addictions <https://betel.org>

¹⁰ Studies consistently show the well-being benefits of marriage e.g. <https://www.psypost.org/new-data-confirms-stable-marriage-is-a-key-predictor-of-happiness-in-old-age/>

¹¹ For example, care for asylum seekers & migrants <https://www.lisbonproject.org/> or humanitarian aid <https://www.hbaid.org/hungarian-baptist-aid> or medical care often for the most vulnerable <https://www.abchealth.org>

- supporting victims of war, persecution, and injustice¹²,
- empowering the poor, exploited and marginalised¹³,
- strengthening reconciliation and defending human rights¹⁴.

These actions arise from our faith, not from political ambition.

How Evangelicals Think Politically

Evangelicals hold a wide range of political views. Individual Evangelicals vote for and participate in many different political parties. As the European Evangelical Alliance family of national alliances, organisations, networks and churches, we are strictly non-partisan regarding party politics. Like all citizens, individually or collectively, we may want to promote policy ideas.

We do so because we believe biblical values can strengthen the wellbeing of people, economies, the environment and society. However, we do not seek political privilege or special treatment¹⁵ We seek to persuade, serve and contribute to the common good.

We believe in a tolerant, civil public square.¹⁶ where all worldviews — including ours — may be expressed freely and respectfully. Disagreement does not equal



extremism. Evangelicals may hold some views that others find unacceptable, but provided we do not seek to impose them, these differences are a natural part of democratic pluralism.

¹² The Ukrainian Evangelical Protestant community's contribution is much appreciated by President Zelensky <https://irf.in.ua/p/126> . The Ukraine Minister for Social Affairs has stated that about 70% of humanitarian support during the first months of the war came through Ukrainian Evangelicals from partners abroad. The European Freedom Network were the first to organise anti-human trafficking measures on the borders as Ukrainians fled the war. They trained major secular aid agencies.

¹³ For example, empowering survivors of sexual exploitation <https://threadsofhopehellas.org/> or care for prisoners. Prison Fellowship International <https://pfi.org/where-we-work/> https://www.europeanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026-05_EEA-Code-of-Conduct_EN.pdf

¹⁴ For example, the European Evangelical Alliance gathered evidence of bad and good practice in the assessment of faith-based asylum seekers. This led to the creation recommendations to government asylum officials. Many of these recommendations are now in the EUAA guidelines for officials. See https://www.europeanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/20220127_religion-or-belief-based-asylum-claims.pdf

¹⁵ See for example https://www.europeanea.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026-05_EEA-Soc-pol-CNEF_TOGETHER-ENGAGED-IN-SOCIETY.pdf from the Conseil Nationale des Evangéliques de France.

¹⁶ See <https://www.europeanea.org/a-civil-public-square-resources/>

History has taught Evangelicals within Europe the dangers when Church and politics become too closely intertwined. Our ultimate allegiance is to God, not to any political leader, party, or nation.¹⁷

Christian Nationalism and the Misuse of Faith

The term “Christian nationalism” is used in diverse ways. Love of nation is a precious thing when that love does not lead to hatred for or harm of others. Bringing Christian ideas to the table for debate is also good, just as others bring theirs. Christianity has had a profound and positive impact on the development of all European nations. However, when “Christian nationalism” refers to dominance, coercion, imposition, intolerance and exclusion, Christianity being aligned to just one political ideology or “the ends justify the means,” the vast majority of Evangelicals in Europe reject it.¹⁸

We are distressed when Christianity — including Evangelicalism — is instrumentalised for partisan political purposes. Even worse is when faith is co-opted for nationalistic, xenophobic, or militaristic agendas. The Bible must never be used to justify actions that contradict the life, example and teachings of Jesus.



We oppose any political movement that demands absolute loyalty, undermines checks and balances of democratic rule, disregards international or humanitarian law, or treats any human being — including migrants, prisoners, civilians of “enemy” nations, or minority groups — as less than fully human.

How Evangelicals Engage in Public Life

The EEA Code of Conduct¹⁹ expresses the virtues we seek to embody - love, humility, truth, peace, courage, wisdom and hope.

These virtues require

- respect and civility, integrity, self-sacrifice and honesty,
- respect for the rule of law and checks and balances on power,

¹⁷ Contrary to impressions in much of the media, European Evangelical attitudes to public engagement are shared by many Evangelicals in the USA. The National Association of Evangelicals is the “Evangelical Alliance” of the USA. Its foundational document for public engagement is <https://www.nae.org/for-the-health-of-the-nation/>

¹⁸ See for example this report which surveyed UK Evangelicals <https://www.eauk.org/assets/files/downloads/Christianity-in-public-life-A5-HIGH-RES-2.pdf>

¹⁹See: <https://www.europeanea.org/code-of-conduct/>

- rejecting coercion, threats, or manipulation,
- the capacity for constructive dialogue rather than a tendency towards polarisation or the demonising of opponents,
- honouring human rights²⁰ — including defending freedom of religion or belief for all and protecting the most vulnerable,
- remembering the imago Dei in every person, with practical outworkings — e.g. ensuring the economy and politics are at the service of humanity, not the other way round.

We acknowledge with sorrow that some Evangelicals sometimes fail to live up to the Gospel we proclaim. Where there has been abuse, manipulation, the misuse of power, dishonesty, racism or hatred of “the other”, such failures should not be excused or hidden. We are called to repentance, accountability, justice and restoration.



At the same time, these misdeeds should not obscure the faithful service of millions of Evangelicals who consistently endeavour to live up to these virtues and whose contribution to the good of society is significant.

A Call to Media and Public Leaders

We invite journalists, politicians, and public leaders to understand Evangelicals across Europe for who we truly are. We ask for fair representation and the avoidance of caricature.²¹ Misconceptions disappear when people meet each other and seek mutual understanding. We encourage engagement with national Evangelical Alliances and local churches to see our contribution firsthand.



²⁰ We believe that human rights come from God and are not the gift of governments.

²¹ See the Spanish Evangelical Alliance’s call for more accurate media coverage of Evangelicals May 2026 https://alianzaevangelica.es/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Comunicado_AEE_evangelicos_medios.pdf

A Call to Europe's Evangelicals

We call upon Evangelicals across Europe to continue praying, serving, and contributing to the common good through actions and charitable giving. Let us keep offering vision for the future, collaborating where we can with the wider Church and, indeed, society. May we persevere in being a faithful presence in every sphere of society. Let us keep sharing the love and hope of Jesus with all.

*Evangelicals in Europe strive to be Good News People after the teachings of Jesus
— committed to integrity, compassion, and the flourishing of our societies.*
