

Resolution on Condemning the Genocide of the Uyghur People
Adopted by the 2021 Delegates Assembly

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Indianapolis, Jewish Community Relations Council of Palm Beach County, JCRC/AJC Detroit, Jewish Community Relations Council of Toledo, Jewish Community Relations Council of Silicon Valley, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, and the Rabbinical Assembly

On January 19, 2021, the United States government determined there was irrefutable evidence that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is engaging in gross human rights violations against the Uyghur Muslim ethnic minority that constitute genocide based upon the definition outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to which China and the United States are signatories.¹ Since the late 1980s, the CCP has engaged in an oppressive campaign against the Uyghurs, who primarily reside in the northwestern Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). As part of a crackdown in early 2017, the CCP constructed a vast network of detention and forced labor camps throughout the XUAR that now intern millions of people and established sophisticated surveillance systems to ensure the remaining Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Muslim minority populations comply with a vast array of restrictions. The CCP claims these camps are “vocational training centers” aimed at “re-educating” the Uyghur population and “countering Islamic extremism.” However, testimonies from survivors and leaked CCP documents paint a vastly different picture.²

Reports indicate the CCP has and continues to engage in the following actions:

1. Forcibly removing Uyghur children from their parents;
2. Arbitrarily detaining and “disappearing” Uyghur intellectuals;
3. Using the Uyghur population for organ harvesting and forced labor;
4. Sanctioning the rape of Uyghur women and forcing them to marry ethnic Han Chinese;
5. Carrying out the destruction of Uyghur religious practices, cultural customs, and Turkic language;
6. Performing forced sterilization and abortions;
7. Resettling the XUAR with ethnic Han Chinese;
8. Forcing the Uyghur population to assimilate in an attempt to eradicate their ethnic identity;
9. Carrying out extrajudicial killings of Uyghurs.³

¹ On March 9, 2021, the Newline Institute for Strategy and Policy think tank released a report finding that China was committing all five actions outlined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, of which just one would constitute genocide. The report can be found at: <https://newlinesinstitute.org/uyghurs/the-uyghur-genocide-an-examination-of-chinas-breaches-of-the-1948-genocide-convention/>

² Ramzy, Austin, and Chris Buckley. “‘Absolutely No Mercy’: Leaked Files Expose How China Organized Mass Detentions of Muslims.” *The New York Times*, November 16, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang-documents.html>

³ “China (The Uyghurs).” *Jewish World Watch*, July 30, 2020. <https://www.jww.org/conflict-areas/uyghurs/>.

Reports also indicate that the 2-3 million detainees within the camps are subjected to forced political indoctrination, physical torture, food deprivation, over-crowded conditions, and sanctioned rape. Uyghurs who have yet to be interned in the camps are subject to 24-hour surveillance and required to attend political meetings, take part in written and spoken Mandarin language classes, and face harsh religious observance restrictions, such as the forced burning of prayer rugs and consumption of non-halal food. Uyghurs have been forced to surrender their passports and must receive special permission from local officials to leave their home villages, which severely limits their right to freedom of movement outlined in Article 13 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.⁴

Further complicating the issue is the deep entrenchment of global supply chains within the region. The XUAR is a major source of textiles, hair products, thread/yarn, tomato products, polysilicon (a component in solar panels), electronic components, and approximately 20% of the world's supply of cotton.⁵ Multiple American companies source materials that can be traced back to Uyghur forced labor in the XUAR or other provinces containing Uyghur forced labor camps. The bipartisan United States Congressional-Executive Commission on China has found that all companies doing business in XUAR are at high risk of complicity in forced labor, and the CCP's repressive policies make it nearly impossible to conduct due diligence.⁶ In late 2020, several major American corporations lobbied against legislation that would require them to disclose their supply chains, citing that broadened legislation would wreak havoc on global supply chains.⁷ Corporations also noted that China's lack of transparency makes it increasingly difficult, and therefore expensive, to trace the source of raw materials. While China's economy booms, Uyghurs continue to suffer to maintain a supply of cheap products. While the United States has taken moderate steps to ban products sourced out of the XUAR, more stringent legislation and corporate accountability is required.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that:

- The Jewish community has a moral and ethical responsibility to raise awareness about and advocate against the mass atrocities being committed against the Uyghurs as well as other religious and ethnic minorities living within China.

⁴ United Nations, "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," United Nations, accessed January 22, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>.

⁵ As of January 2021, at least 82 well-known brands source materials from factories that utilize Uyghur forced labor. Cave, Danielle and Vicky Xiuzhong Xu, "Uyghurs for Sale," *Australian Strategic Policy Institute*, 2020, <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/uyghurs-sale>.

⁶ Congressional Executive Commission on China, "Global Supply Chains, Forced Labor, and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region," CECC, 2020. <https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/documents/CECC%20Staff%20Report%20March%202020%20-%20Global%20Supply%20Chains%2C%20Forced%20Labor%2C%20and%20the%20Xinjiang%20Uyghur%20Autonomous%20Region.pdf>

⁷ Ana Swanson, "Nike and Coca-Cola Lobby Against Xinjiang Forced Labor Bill," *The New York Times*, November 29, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/29/business/economy/nike-coca-cola-xinjiang-forced-labor-bill.html>.

- The Jewish community should call upon the CCP to end the genocide and exploitation of the Uyghurs, as well as halt the oppression of other ethnic and religious minorities living within its borders.
- The CCP is systematically engaging in genocide⁸ and other human rights violations, including -- but not limited to -- the internment of millions of Uyghurs in detention camps; severe restrictions on culture, religion, and language to impose forced assimilation; pervasive surveillance and monitoring; utilizing the Uyghur population for forced labor; instituting state-sponsored mass rape of Uyghur women; and the enforcement of sterilization policies.
- Businesses and nonprofit organizations should evaluate and disclose their supply chains in China to ensure that materials are not sourced from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), as well as implement policies and protocols to ensure the products they sell are not made by slave labor.⁹
- Congress and the Administration must continue to mandate strong economic sanctions against Chinese officials and other individuals responsible for human rights violations, as well as Chinese businesses that source their materials from the XUAR.
- Congress and the Administration must expand current bans on products that are produced in or imported from the XUAR and ensure enforcement, as well as pass legislation requiring American businesses to disclose their supply chains in the XUAR.
- The United States government and international community must pressure the CCP to permit increased access to human rights groups and other non-governmental organizations to allow for more robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the XUAR.
- Congress and the Administration must uphold the genocide determination issued on January 19, 2021 and affirm their commitment to prevent and punish the crime of genocide as outlined in Article V of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.¹⁰

⁸ For purposes of this resolution, “genocide” refers to the definition outlined in Article III of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide which states, “In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such: a) killing members of the group; b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”

⁹ Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act served as the first federal legislation in this area and states that publicly traded companies that manufacture or contract to manufacture products using certain conflict minerals must disclose the source of their supply chains.

¹⁰ Article V of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide states, “The Contracting Parties undertake to enact, in accordance with their respective Constitutions, the necessary legislation to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and, in particular, to provide effective penalties for persons guilty of genocide or of any of the other acts enumerated in article III.”

The Jewish community relations field should:

- Publicly condemn the many reported cruel and inhumane actions of the CCP against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority populations.
- Lead in working with faith communities, ethnic and community-based organizations, educators, and other stakeholders to create a grassroots atrocity prevention movement related to the Uyghurs, including joining coalitions dedicated to this issue.
- Given the determination of genocide by the United States Department of State, urge Congress and the Administration to immediately fulfill its obligation of preventing further atrocities as set forth in the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide by utilizing all methods at its disposal.
- Urge Congress and the Administration to pursue this issue in international forums like the United Nations and encourage the international community to support similar measures in their home countries.
- Educate local Jewish communities and raise awareness about the atrocities being committed against the Uyghur people to build support for United States action.