

JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DRAFT RESOLUTION ON CONDEMNING THE
GENOCIDE OF UYGHUR PEOPLE

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

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

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

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20 1. Forcibly removing Uyghur children from their parents;

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>

- 21 2. Arbitrarily detaining and “disappearing” Uyghur intellectuals;
- 22 3. Using the Uyghur population for organ harvesting and forced labor;
- 23 4. Sanctioning the rape of Uyghur women and forcing them to marry
- 24 ethnic Han Chinese;
- 25 5. Carrying out the destruction of Uyghur religious practices, cultural
- 26 customs, and Turkic language;
- 27 6. Performing forced sterilization and abortions;
- 28 7. Resettling the XUAR with ethnic Han Chinese;
- 29 8. Forcing the Uyghur population to assimilate in an attempt to eradicate
- 30 their ethnic identity;
- 31 9. Carrying out extrajudicial killings of Uyghurs.³

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

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44 Further complicating the issue is the deep entrenchment of global supply chains
45 within the region. The XUAR is a major source of textiles, hair products,
46 thread/yarn, tomato products, polysilicon (a component in solar panels), electronic

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

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

47 components, and approximately 20% of the world’s supply of cotton.⁵ Multiple
48 American companies source materials that can be traced back to Uyghur forced
49 labor in the XUAR or other provinces containing Uyghur forced labor camps. The
50 bipartisan United States Congressional-Executive Commission on China has
51 found that all companies doing business in XUAR are at high risk of complicity in
52 forced labor, and the CCP’s repressive policies make it nearly impossible to
53 conduct due diligence.⁶ In late 2020, several major American corporations lobbied
54 against legislation that would require them to disclose their supply chains, citing
55 that broadened legislation would wreak havoc on global supply chains.⁷
56 Corporations also noted that China’s lack of transparency makes it increasingly
57 difficult, and therefore expensive, to trace the source of raw materials. While
58 China’s economy booms, Uyghurs continue to suffer to maintain a supply of
59 cheap products. While the United States has taken moderate steps to ban products
60 sourced out of the XUAR, more stringent legislation and corporate accountability
61 is required.

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63 **The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that:**

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

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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>.

- 70 • The Jewish community should call upon the CCP to end the genocide and
71 exploitation of the Uyghurs, as well as halt the oppression of other ethnic
72 and religious minorities living within its borders.
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- 74 • The CCP is systematically engaging in genocide⁸ and other human rights
75 violations, including -- but not limited to -- the internment of millions of
76 Uyghurs in detention camps; severe restrictions on culture, religion, and
77 language to impose forced assimilation; pervasive surveillance and
78 monitoring; utilizing the Uyghur population for forced labor; instituting
79 state-sponsored mass rape of Uyghur women; and the enforcement of
80 sterilization policies.
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- 82 • Businesses and nonprofit organizations should evaluate and disclose their
83 supply chains in China to ensure that materials are not sourced from the
84 Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), as well as implement
85 policies and protocols to ensure the products they sell are not made by
86 slave labor.⁹
- 87
- 88 • Congress and the Administration must continue to mandate strong
89 economic sanctions against Chinese officials and other individuals
90 responsible for human rights violations, as well as Chinese businesses that
91 source their materials from the XUAR.
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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.

- 93 • Congress and the Administration must expand current bans on products
94 that are produced in or imported from the XUAR and ensure enforcement,
95 as well as pass legislation requiring American businesses to disclose their
96 supply chains in the XUAR.
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- 98 • The United States government and international community must pressure
99 the CCP to permit increased access to human rights groups and other non-
100 governmental organizations to allow for more robust monitoring and
101 evaluation mechanisms in the XUAR.
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- 103 • Congress and the Administration must uphold the genocide determination
104 issued on January 19, 2021 and affirm their commitment to prevent and
105 punish the crime of genocide as outlined in Article V of the United
106 Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of
107 Genocide.¹⁰
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109 **The Jewish community relations field should:**
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- 111 • Publicly condemn the many reported cruel and inhumane actions of the
112 CCP against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority populations.
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- 114 • Lead in working with faith communities, ethnic and community-based
115 organizations, educators, and other stakeholders to create a grassroots
116 atrocities prevention movement related to the Uyghurs, including joining
117 coalitions dedicated to this issue.
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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.”

- 119 • Given the determination of genocide by the United States Department of
120 State, urge Congress and the Administration to immediately fulfill its
121 obligation of preventing further atrocities as set forth in the United
122 Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide by
123 utilizing all methods at its disposal.
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- 125 • Urge Congress and the Administration to pursue this issue in international
126 forums like the United Nations and encourage the international
127 community to support similar measures in their home countries.
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- 129 • Educate local Jewish communities and raise awareness about the atrocities
130 being committed against the Uyghur people to build support for United
131 States action.