

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, JCRC/AJC Detroit, Jewish
Community Relations Council of Toledo, 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 and ratified by the
6 United States on November 5, 1988. Since the late 1980s, the CCP has engaged in
7 an 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.¹

17

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

19

- 20 1. Forcibly removing Uyghur children from their parents;
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;

¹ Ramzy, Austin, and Chris Buckley. “‘Absolutely No Mercy’: Leaked Files Expose How China Organized Mass Detentions of Muslims.” The New York Times. The New York Times, November 16, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang-documents.html?auth=login-email&login=email>.

- 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.²

32

33 Reports also indicate that the 2-3 million detainees of the camps are subjected to

34 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.³

43

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

47 components, and approximately 20% of the world's supply of cotton.⁴ Multiple

48 American companies source materials that can be traced back to Uyghur forced

² "China (The Uyghurs)." Jewish World Watch, July 30, 2020. <https://www.jww.org/conflict-areas/uyghurs/>.

³ United Nations, "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," United Nations, accessed January 22, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>.

⁴ As of January 2021, at least 82 well-known brands source materials from factories that utilize Uyghur forced labor, including Apple, Nike, Zara, Walt Disney, Abercrombie & Fitch, and BMW. Cave, Danielle and Vicky Xiuzhong Xu, "Uyghurs for Sale," Australian Strategic Policy Institute (Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 2020), <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/uyghurs-sale>.

49 labor in the XUAR or other provinces containing Uyghur forced labor camps. In
50 late 2020, several major American corporations lobbied against legislation that
51 would require them to disclose their supply chains, citing that broadened
52 legislation would wreak havoc on global supply chains.⁵ Corporations also noted
53 that China's lack of transparency makes it increasingly difficult, and therefore
54 expensive, to trace the source of raw materials. While China's economy booms
55 and corporate pocketbooks swell, Uyghurs continue to suffer to maintain a supply
56 of cheap products. While the United States has taken moderate steps to ban
57 products sourced out of the XUAR, more stringent legislation and corporate
58 accountability is required.

59

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

61

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

66

67 • The Jewish community should call upon the CCP to end the genocide and
68 exploitation of the Uyghurs, as well as halt the oppression of other ethnic
69 and religious minorities living within its borders.

70

71 • The CCP is systematically engaging in genocide⁶ and other human rights
72 violations, including -- but not limited to -- the internment of millions of

⁵ Ana Swanson, "Nike and Coca-Cola Lobby Against Xinjiang Forced Labor Bill," The New York Times (The New York Times, November 29, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/29/business/economy/nike-coca-cola-xinjiang-forced-labor-bill.html>.

⁶ 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

73 Uyghurs in detention camps; severe restrictions on culture, religion, and
74 language to impose forced assimilation; pervasive surveillance and
75 monitoring; utilizing the Uyghur population for forced labor; instituting
76 state-sponsored mass rape of Uyghur women; and the enforcement of
77 sterilization policies.

78

- 79 • Businesses and nonprofit organizations should evaluate and disclose their
80 supply chains to ensure that materials are not sourced from the Xinjiang
81 Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), as well as implement policies and
82 protocols to ensure the products they sell are not made by slave labor.
- 83
- 84 • Congress and the Administration must continue to mandate strong
85 economic sanctions against Chinese officials and other individuals
86 responsible for human rights violations, as well as Chinese businesses that
87 source their materials from the XUAR.
- 88
- 89 • Congress and the Administration must expand current bans on products
90 that are produced in or imported from the XUAR and ensure enforcement,
91 as well as pass legislation requiring American businesses to disclose their
92 supply chains.
- 93
- 94 • The United States government and international community must pressure
95 the CCP to permit increased access to human rights groups and other non-
96 governmental organizations to allow for more robust monitoring and
97 evaluation mechanisms in the XUAR.
- 98
- 99 • Congress and the Administration must uphold the genocide determination
100 issued on January 19, 2021 and affirm their commitment to prevent and
101 punish the crime of genocide as outlined in Article V of the United

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.”

102 Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of
103 Genocide.⁷
104

105 **The Jewish community relations field should:**
106

- 107 • Lead in working with faith communities, ethnic and community-based
108 organizations, educators, and other stakeholders to create a grassroots
109 atrocity prevention movement related to the Uyghurs, including joining
110 coalitions dedicated to this issue.
111
- 112 • Urge the United States government to immediately:
113
 - 114 ○ Uphold and follow through on the official determination of
115 genocide;
 - 116 ○ Expand targeted sanctions on Chinese officials, businesses, and
117 others involved in the ongoing atrocities;⁸
 - 118 ○ Place pressure on the CCP to increase access to human rights
119 organizations and non-governmental organizations;
 - 120 ○ Pass legislation that would require corporations to disclose their
121 global supply chains;⁹
 - 122 ○ Expand and enforce bans on products produced in or imported
123 from the XUAR.
124

⁷ 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.”

⁸ “Treasury Sanctions Chinese Entity and Officials Pursuant to Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act,” U.S. Department of the Treasury (U.S. Department of the Treasury, July 9, 2020), <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1055>.

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.

- 125 • Urge Congress and the Administration to encourage allies within the
126 international community to support similar measures in their home
127 countries.
128
- 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.