



A Partnership for Community Relations and Jewish Advocacy

## **Uyghur Policy Adopted March 23, 2022**

As a Jewish organization, the Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee (JCRC/AJC) is committed to justice and morality for all human beings worldwide. Jewish people have experienced persecution throughout the ages, and we feel the anguished cries and the pain of those who are suffering, wherever they may be. As survivors of genocide, we have a moral duty and obligation to stand for those, like the Uyghurs, who face a similar reality. The memory of the Holocaust lives on in the JCRC/AJC's human rights framework, which gives the Jewish community a particular authority and an acute moral responsibility to speak out in protest. The atrocities perpetrated against Uyghurs must not fall upon deaf ears. The Jewish people know what it means when the international community ignores the desperate cries. As Elie Wiesel once said: "Whoever listens to a witness becomes a witness."

Since the late 1980s, the Chinese Communist Party (the "CCP") has engaged in an oppressive campaign against the Uyghurs, a Muslim ethnic minority population primarily residing in the northwestern Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Uyghurs have a rich and unique culture expressed through their language, religious traditions, dance, music and art. As part of a crackdown in early 2017, the CCP constructed a vast network of detention and forced labor camps throughout the XUAR. These camps 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.

### **The Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee believes that:**

- The Jewish community has a moral and ethical responsibility to raise awareness and advocate against the mass atrocities committed against the Uyghurs and other religious and ethnic minorities living within China.
- The Jewish community should call upon the CCP to end the genocide and exploitation of the Uyghurs and halt the oppression of other ethnic and religious minorities living within its borders.

- The CCP is systematically engaging in genocide 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) and implement policies and protocols to ensure the products they sell are not made by slave labor.
- Congress and the Administration must continue to mandate strong economic sanctions against Chinese officials and other individuals responsible for human rights violations and Chinese businesses that source their materials from the XUAR.
- Congress and the Administration must expand current bans on products produced or imported from the XUAR and ensure enforcement and pass legislation requiring American businesses to disclose their supply chains in the XUAR.
- The United States government and the 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.

**The Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee:**

- Publicly condemns the many reported inhumane actions of the CCP against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority populations.
- Urges the Metropolitan Detroit faith communities, ethnic and community-based organizations, educators, and other stakeholders to work with us 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, urges Congress and the Administration to immediately fulfill its obligation of preventing further atrocities as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide by utilizing all methods at its disposal.
- Urges 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.