

ADAS ISRAEL SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE UYGHUR CRISIS RESPONSE RESOURCE GUIDE

Updated August 2022 (to be updated periodically)

The Adas Israel Social Action Committee's team focused on the Uyghur crisis created this document as an ongoing resource for information on events, actions, and background related to the crisis. Contact Karen Guberman (kruberman@gmail.com) or Nechama Liss-Levinson (lisslev@verizon.net) for more information.

Background: China's treatment of Uyghurs has been declared a genocide by the [US government](#) and parliaments in France, Canada, the UK, and elsewhere. Resources below document in horrifying detail the cruelty and scale of these crimes. Other parliaments, including the European Parliament, have recognized a "serious risk" of genocide, a legal term meant to impose prevention obligations under the Genocide Convention. In the US, the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) was signed into law in December 2021, and implementation began in June 2022. This law requires companies to ensure that their imported products are not made with forced Uyghur labor and establishes a presumption that goods imported from that region are made with forced Uyghur labor and cannot be imported into the US.

The Adas SAC's Uyghur Crisis Response Team has been active since its inception in early 2021. Several of our major initiatives are below, followed by ways you can take action: these include attending protests, engaging in direct advocacy, signing petitions, supporting your local Uyghur community, and reading and sharing resources. We look forward to seeing you join us in this important work.

Year One Achievements

- **Coordinating an [open letter](#) from the Jewish community to President Biden, Vice President Harris, Secretary Blinken, and more than a dozen members of Congress.** The letter, sent on behalf of more than 200 leaders and organizations, urged the US government to do more to combat the genocide and was delivered hours before Congress reached agreement on the critical Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. Coverage was extensive in national and Jewish press.
 - [Axios](#), "Exclusive: Jewish groups urge Biden to take action on Uyghur genocide"
 - [The Hill](#), "Jewish groups push Biden to take more action on Uyghur genocide in China"
 - [The Algemeiner](#), "Over 200 Jewish Organizations, Rabbis Ask Biden to 'Act Now' Against Chinese Persecution of Uyghurs"
 - [The Washington Jewish Week](#), "Area rabbis, congregations, groups press Biden on Uyghur genocide"
 - [Jewish Insider](#) Daily Kickoff, "Uyghur Warning"
- **Organizing a national webinar in February 2022 titled "What Does Never Again Mean in the Face of the Uyghur Genocide?"** A great resource for understanding more about this crisis, why it matters to Jews, and how our community is responding, the webinar can be viewed [on YouTube](#). Moderated by SAC Chair Brad Brooks-Rubin and

introduced by Rabbi Krinsky, the panel included a Uyghur survivor and representatives from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Indianapolis, the Uyghur Human Rights Project, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

- **Leading protests every single month since March 2021 in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington DC.** We are continually joined by our partners in the Uyghur, Jewish, and interfaith communities at these protest-vigils.
- **Providing direct mental health support and counseling to Uyghur survivors through the Uyghur Wellness Initiative.** Add some sense of the scale (number of hours, clients, or volunteers Adas has coordinated)?

1 -- Protests

- The SAC holds a monthly protest in front of the Chinese Embassy in the US, located at Van Ness and International Drive in DC. Please let Karen Guberman (kriguberman@gmail.com) know if you would be interested in participating in a protest organized in the DC area or receiving protest notification emails. Past speakers have included...

2 -- Direct Advocacy

- Sens. Menendez (D-NJ) and Rubio (R-FL) have introduced the bipartisan [Sanctioning Supporters of Slave Labor Act](#). This bill would impose secondary sanctions on companies, entities, and individuals that do business with entities sanctioned under the existing Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA). Congressman Jim Banks (R-ID) introduced a companion version of the bill in the House.
 - If you live outside of DC, please urge your Congressional delegation to co-sponsor this bill. If they already do support the bill, thank them. For those of us who live in DC, please ask friends and relatives in states with representation to contact their senators and representatives.
 - You can [contact your senators directly](#) and find your [House representatives' information here](#).

3 -- Petitions

- [Tell Urban Outfitters: Stop Profiting from Uyghur Forced Labor](#). Send messages to other fashion brands calling on them to stop using forced Uyghur labor [here](#). For more petitions and actions you can take to support efforts to end the fashion industry's use of Uyghur forced labor, [check out this website](#). Remember as consumers we have a lot of power to influence companies' actions on this issue.
- Read [Rahima Mahmut's story](#). Stand with Rahima and add your name here: [Free Uyghur Muslims from forced labor](#) (85k signed!)
- Where is beloved Uyghur folklore professor Rahile Dawut? [Join 47,000 others in calling for her release](#).

4 -- Local Uyghur Community Support

- **Direct support:**
 - The Uyghur Human Rights Project is looking for **pro bono immigration attorneys** to help Uyghur refugees in their quest to stay in the United States. They are also looking for **licensed psychologists, social workers, and counselors** from DC, VA and MD who would be willing to volunteer with the Wellness Initiative for supportive therapy or run a support group dealing with trauma, grief, depression and anxiety, all over the phone or Zoom. If you are interested in either opportunity, please contact Nechama Liss-Levinson at lisslev@verizon.net or (516) 770-3572.
 - Here is a brief description of the Uyghur Wellness Initiative, as well as some of the organizations which are involved: The Uyghur Wellness Initiative is an all-volunteer project to provide help for the trauma and grief experienced by the Uyghur diaspora community in the current human rights crisis in their homeland. It is cosponsored by [Peace Catalyst International](#), [The Tarim Network](#), [Campaign for Uyghurs](#), [Uyghur Human Rights Project](#), and numerous individual volunteers.
 - Here is the basic self-guided orientation we have been sharing with potential counselors: [Uyghur Americans, Psychological Trauma and Secondary Survivorship: Orientation for Counselors](#)
 - Additional Resource: [Psychological torture': Uyghurs abroad face mental health crisis over plight of relatives who remain in Xinjiang](#). South China Morning Post. March 10, 2020. Activists say that even if Beijing's crackdown can't be stopped, steps can be taken to address the 'secondary trauma' of those who have fled.
- **Buy dinner:** An easy and delicious way to support our local Uyghur community is by patronizing local Uyghur restaurants:
 - Dolan Uyghur Restaurant | 3518 Connecticut Ave. NW | (202) 968-2010 | <https://www.dolanuyghur.com>
 - Eerekin's Uyghur Cuisine and Tea Bar | Three locations in Georgetown, Rockville, and Fairfax | <https://eerkins.com/>
 - Marco and Polo Uyghur Restaurant | 6504 America Blvd, Hyattsville MD | (301) 864-1670 | <https://www.marcoandpolomd.com>

5 -- Resources

- Jewish World Watch created the [Uyghur Forced Labor Database](#), which documents which companies have been linked to Uyghur forced labor.
- Organizational resource/background/action
 - [Jewish World Watch Resource Page](#)
 - [Uyghur Human Rights Project](#)
 - [Human Rights Watch work on the Uyghur Crisis](#)
 - [Campaign for Uyghurs](#)
 - [World Uyghur Congress](#)
- Articles/reports/documentaries

- International Consortium of Investigative Journalism (ICIJ) "[The faces of China's detention camps in Xinjiang](#)" (May 2022)
 - "A new leak of Chinese government records reveals thousands of never-before seen mug shots of Uyghurs and other photos from inside the notorious internment camps, as well as new details of the national mass detention program."
- ICIJ "[China Cables](#)" investigation (November 2019)
 - "China Cables reveals, in the government's own words and authoritative detail, a description of China's extrajudicial internment and compulsory indoctrination of Muslims. Confirms China's camps are involuntary indoctrination centers under heavy 24-hour guard — with high watchtowers, internal cameras and dedicated police bases. China Cables exposes key details of China's mass-surveillance system that is used to control routine behavior, curb internal communication and isolate Xinjiang from the rest of the world."
- Council on Foreign Relations Backgrounder: "[China's Repression of Uighurs in Xinjiang](#)."
 - "About eleven million Uighurs—a mostly Muslim, Turkic-speaking ethnic group—live in the northwestern region of Xinjiang. The Chinese government has imprisoned more than one million people since 2017 and subjected those not detained to intense surveillance, religious restrictions, and forced sterilizations. The Trump administration sanctioned officials and blacklisted dozens of Chinese agencies linked to abuses in Xinjiang. In 2021, it determined that China's actions constitute genocide and crimes against humanity."
- BBC report: "['Their goal is to destroy everyone': Uighur camp detainees allege systematic rape](#)" (February 2021)
- PBS Frontline: "[China Undercover](#)" (April 2020).
 - "A special undercover report from China's secretive Xinjiang region. FRONTLINE investigates the Communist regime's mass imprisonment of Muslims, and its use and testing of sophisticated surveillance technology against the Uyghur community."

6 -- Upcoming Events (will be added)

Add next protest date