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# What You Can Do: How Ordinary People Can Help the Uyghurs in a Time of Genocide

**Author's Note:** *This Google Docs site is in many ways a detailed synthesis of other “What You Can Do” resources created by activists and scholars dedicated to helping the Uyghur people. Although it contains some actions not found in these resources, and although many suggested actions overlap, I still recommend that you visit these resources yourself as they were written and are updated by people who know much more about the Uyghur Genocide and how to help than I do. Some of them are as follows:*

- That of the [World Uyghur Congress](#)
- That of the [Uyghur Human Rights Project](#)
- Darren Byler's [Xinjiang Action List](#)
- That of the [Campaign for Uyghurs](#)
- There are others

**A Note on the Notes:** *For those who “just want to help Uyghurs now” reading the footnotes on these pages is not necessary (and not doing so will make this Google Docs site a much shorter read). However, I have found that one of the biggest obstacles toward getting people to take action on behalf of the Uyghurs is the immense amount of misinformation that surrounds what is happening to them. Many media outlets push the Chinese government's narrative that its policies in Xinjiang/East Turkestan are all part of a legitimate “counterterrorism” effort. Others push the incorrect belief that the existence or severity of the Uyghur human rights crisis is nothing more than the product of Western media sensationalism. Still others put “scare quotes” around concepts such as “genocide” or “forced labor” because their reporters or editors have not read the abundant evidence that exists for these crimes. Finally, the most gruesome aspects of the Uyghur Genocide (e.g. forced organ harvesting) seldom get any media attention at all. I therefore felt it to be necessary to thoroughly document my sources of information for the purposes of rebutting these beliefs, establishing my own credibility, and providing more information to any readers who want to learn more about a specific issue.*

**Who am I?:** *I am a student of East Asian Studies and Chinese language. Although I am seldom vocal with my opinions, and have, for most of my life, generally avoided what might be called “righteous causes,” I became involved in raising awareness about the Uyghur Genocide after I learned the true nature of its magnitude and horror. It is my belief that the policies of the People's Republic of China toward Uyghurs and other minority Muslims have reached such a severity that no ethical person can justifiably ignore or fail to oppose them. I have created this Google Docs site as a result of what I have learned from reading reliable sources on the Uyghur human rights crisis and following the activism related to it. It is my hope that those who want to*

help the Uyghurs, but don't know how, will find it a useful source of reliable information on what they can do.

## Introduction

The Uyghur people, and to an extent other predominantly Islamic minorities who live in the Xinjiang (XUAR)/East Turkestan region of northwestern China (PRC), have, for some years now, been undergoing arbitrary/extrajudicial detention,<sup>1</sup> torture,<sup>2</sup> sexual violence,<sup>3</sup> physical and psychological abuse,<sup>4</sup> forcible assimilation,<sup>5</sup> non-consensual injection with drugs,<sup>6</sup> invasive surveillance,<sup>7</sup> the invasion of their homes,<sup>8</sup> restriction of movement,<sup>9</sup> language restriction,<sup>10</sup> forced marriage,<sup>11</sup> forced labor,<sup>12</sup> the destruction of their cultural sites,<sup>13</sup> the imprisonment of

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<sup>1</sup> Congressional Executive Commission on China (CECC), “Xinjiang,” sec. IV, *2019 Annual Report*, (January, 8, 2020): 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, [https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/documents/2019AR\\_XINJIANG.pdf](https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/documents/2019AR_XINJIANG.pdf). Sean Roberts, *The War on the Uyghurs: China's Internal Campaign Against a Muslim Minority*, with foreword by Ben Emmerson (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020), ix, xvi, 1-3, 213-15, 222, 224. Adrian Zenz, “The Karakax List: Dissecting the Anatomy of Beijing’s Internment Drive in Xinjiang,” *The Journal of Political Risk* 8, no. 2 (2020), [www.jpolarisk.com/karakax/](http://www.jpolarisk.com/karakax/).

<sup>2</sup> CECC, 1, 2, 4, 6. Roberts, x, 2, 217.

<sup>3</sup> Roberts, 217-18.

<sup>4</sup> CECC, “Xinjiang,” 1, 4, 9. Roberts, 216-18.

<sup>5</sup> Darren Byler, “Violent Paternalism: On the Banality of Uyghur Unfreedom,” *The Asia-Pacific Journal* 16(24), no. 4 (2018), <https://apjif.org/2018/24/Byler.html>. CECC, 1-2, 4, 7-8. Roberts, x, xiv-xv, 4-5, 216, 218, 222, 224-27, 230-31, 235.

<sup>6</sup> CECC, 1, 4. Roberts, 2, 217. Adrian Zenz, “Sterilizations, IUDs, and Coercive Birth Prevention: The CCP’s Campaign to Suppress Uyghur Birth Rates in Xinjiang,” *The Jamestown Foundation*, China Brief 20, no. 12 (2020): 1, 3, 19, <https://jamestown.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Zenz-Internment-Sterilizations-and-IUDs-UPDATED-July-21-Rev2.pdf?x30227>.

<sup>7</sup> Darren Byler, “The Xinjiang Data Police,” *Noēma*, October 8, 2020, <https://www.noemamag.com/the-xinjiang-data-police/>. CECC, 14. Roberts, xv, 1, 3, 205-07, 224-27.

<sup>8</sup> Darren Byler, “Violent Paternalism.” CECC, 13-14. Roberts, 3, 226.

<sup>9</sup> CECC, 2, 6, 7, 9, 12. Roberts, 186-87. Zenz, “Karakax List,” sec. 4.2.4.

<sup>10</sup> Roberts, x, 4, 139, 212, 216.

<sup>11</sup> Darren Byler, “Uyghur Love in a Time of Interethnic Marriage,” *Domestic News*, *SupChina*, August 7, 2019, <https://supchina.com/2019/08/07/uyghur-love-in-a-time-of-interethnic-marriage/>. Roberts, 234-35.

<sup>12</sup> Darren Byler, “How Companies Profit from Forced Labor in Xinjiang,” *Social Analysis*, *Art of Life in Chinese Central Asia*, October 11, 2019, <https://livingotherwise.com/2019/10/11/how-companies-profit-from-forced-labor-in-xinjiang/>. CECC, “Xinjiang,” 1, 7, 10-11, 13. Roberts, xiii, xiv-xvi, 219-22, 232. Vicky Xiuzhong Xu, et al., “Uyghurs for Sale: ‘Re-education’, Forced Labour and Surveillance Beyond Xinjiang” *Australian Strategic Policy Institute*, Policy Brief no. 26 (2020), <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/uyghurs-sale>. Adrian Zenz, “Beyond the Camps: Beijing’s Grand Scheme of Coercive Labor, Poverty Alleviation and Social Control in Xinjiang” (written testimony before the CECC, Washington D.C., 2019), <https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/documents/Beyond%20the%20Camps%20CECC%20testimony%20version%20%28Zenz%20Oct%202019%29.pdf>. Adrian Zenz, “Coercive Labor in Xinjiang: Labor Transfer and the Mobilization of Ethnic Minorities to Pick Cotton,” *Center for Global Policy*: (Intelligence Brief, December, 2020), <https://cgpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/20201214-PB-China-Zenz-1-3.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> CECC, 15. Roberts x, xiii, 4, 228-30. Nathan Ruser, et al., “Cultural Erasure: Tracing the destruction of Uyghur and Islamic spaces in Xinjiang,” *Australian Strategic Policy Institute*: Policy Brief no. 38 (2020), [www.aspi.org.au/report/cultural-erasure](http://www.aspi.org.au/report/cultural-erasure).

their cultural figures,<sup>14</sup> the making of consumer products with their hair,<sup>15</sup> general religion-/culture-/ethnicity-based persecution,<sup>16</sup> separation of children from families,<sup>17</sup> ethnic dilution through settler colonialism,<sup>18</sup> ethnic cleansing through the forcible sterilization of women/the prevention of births,<sup>19</sup> and forced organ harvesting from otherwise living victims,<sup>20</sup> each at the hands or encouragement of the Chinese government, and each on a disturbingly massive scale. The PRC's treatment of Uyghurs meets the internationally recognized definitions of genocide<sup>21</sup> and crimes against humanity<sup>22</sup> and is in many ways unprecedented since the Holocaust. China's government claims that its treatment of Uyghurs is necessary to combat an "existential terrorist threat," however, while some violent attacks that could be considered terrorism have been carried out by certain Uyghurs in the past, the threat of terrorism from their population has always been minimal at best, and neither the scale of the government's crackdown upon their entire ethnicity, culture, and religion; nor the nature of the crackdowns's violence is justified by "counterterrorism" claims.<sup>23</sup> Nevertheless, due to China's tremendous

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<sup>14</sup> Abduweli Ayup, Rachel Harris, and Peter Irwin, "Where are the Imams? Evidence for Mass Detention of Uyghur Religious Figures," moderated by Nicole Morgret (research presentation and panel discussion, Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom and Uyghur Human Rights Project [UHRP], GoToWebinar, November 17, 2020), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqcb9tjDp9U>. CECC, 11-12. Roberts, 1, 223.

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB), "CBP Detains Chinese Shipment of Suspected Forced Labor Products Made with Human Hair," *Official Website of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)*, DHS, July 1, 2020, [www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-detains-chinese-shipment-suspected-forced-labor-products-made](http://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-detains-chinese-shipment-suspected-forced-labor-products-made).

<sup>16</sup> Ayup, Harris, and Irwin, "Where are the Imams?". CECC, "Xinjiang," 1, 3, 6, 11-12, 14-15. Roberts, *War on the Uyghurs*, ix-x, 2, 199-235.

<sup>17</sup> CECC, 13. Roberts, xiii, xvi, 232-33. Adrian Zenz, "Beyond the Camps," 22-23. Adrian Zenz, "Break Their Roots: Evidence for China's Parent-Child Separation Campaign in Xinjiang," *The Journal of Political Risk* 7, no. 7 (2019), [www.jpolrisk.com/break-their-roots-evidence-for-chinas-parent-child-separation-campaign-in-xinjiang/](http://www.jpolrisk.com/break-their-roots-evidence-for-chinas-parent-child-separation-campaign-in-xinjiang/).

<sup>18</sup> Roberts. Zenz, "Sterilizations," 3-7.

<sup>19</sup> Zenz, "Sterilizations."

<sup>20</sup> Ethan Gutman, "The 'Nine Points' Memo: China's Forced Organ Harvesting in Xinjiang/East Turkestan" (memo, in author's possession, December 9, 2020). Ben Emerson, Foreword to *The War on the Uyghurs: China's Internal Campaign Against a Muslim Minority* by Sean Roberts (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020), x. See also The China Tribunal, website, accessed January 7, 2021, <https://chinatribunal.com/>.

<sup>21</sup> Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Resolution 260 A (III), art. II, United Nations General Assembly (1948). Olivia Enos, "Why the U.S. Should Issue an Atrocity Determination for Uyghurs," *The Heritage Foundation*, Backgrounder no. 3529 (2020): 2-5, <https://www.heritage.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/BG3529.pdf>. Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (SDIR), "Statement by the Subcommittee on International Human Rights Concerning The Human Rights Situation of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims In Xinjiang, China," Parliament of Canada, October 21, 2020, <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/SDIR/news-release/10903199>. Zenz, "Sterilizations," 1, 3, 21.

<sup>22</sup> Rome Statute, United Nations Treaty Series 2187, no. 38544, pt. 2, art. 7, §1, International Criminal Court (1998). CECC, "Xinjiang," 1, 5-6. European Parliament resolution on forced labour and the situation of the Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, 2020/2913(RSP), 9th European Parliament (2020). *The Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China*, Full Judgement, para. 479-81 (The China Tribunal, 2020), [https://chinatribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ChinaTribunal\\_JUDGMENT\\_1stMarch\\_2020.pdf](https://chinatribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ChinaTribunal_JUDGMENT_1stMarch_2020.pdf). Emerson, Foreword, x. SDIR, "Statement Concerning the Situation."

<sup>23</sup> Roberts, *War on the Uyghurs*.

economic and geopolitical influence, the world at large has been shamefully slow to condemn the PRC's actions, and some states have even openly approved of them.<sup>24</sup>

If you are not a policy maker, but find this information as deeply troubling as I do, and want to help the Uyghur people and other victimized minorities in China, this Google Docs site was written for you. Xinjiang/East Turkestan may feel incredibly far away, but there are a number of things that ordinary people can do to combat the Uyghur Genocide, and many of them are surprisingly simple. Just buying the right foods or having a conversation with your doctor can actually be ways for you to personally oppose the worst human rights violations of the 21st Century. Below you will find a list of tangible actions that almost anyone can take to help persecuted Uyghurs and other Muslims in China. Clicking on the links will take you to my advice on how to take these actions and/or my explanations of why they are important.

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<sup>24</sup> Roberts, 246-47.