

Dear <Government Representative>,

RE: CHINA AND THE UYGHURS

I am writing to you to ask you to raise the plight of the Uyghurs in Parliament/ Congress / government.

It is estimated that over a million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities are being detained indefinitely in 're-education' camps in China's Xinjiang Region. They are a majority Muslim population and are being detained arbitrarily for reasons as trivial as having contact with family abroad, or refusing to drink alcohol. These people have not committed criminal offences and are being subjected to psychological abuse and political indoctrination to deny their faith.

The range of people detained, from elderly women, to intellectuals, and celebrated artists, undermines the official line that the camps are for 'vocational training'. The reality is that the camps are part of a wider effort by the Chinese government to subdue and erase Uyghur culture. The Uyghur language is being removed from schools and public spaces. Mosques are empty. Neighbourhoods are being bulldozed. The Chinese Government have created a near-total surveillance state in Xinjiang. Deeply intrusive surveillance has been deployed by the Chinese government in this region, including facial recognition technology and collection of DNA samples.

I hope you agree that our Government could be doing much more, and has a duty to do so.

Just recently, the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 was passed with overwhelming support in the USA congress. It has now been signed into law. This Act authorises the US government to impose

sanctions on Chinese officials responsible for the detention and persecution of the Uyghur people.

As your constituent, I am asking for your help in asking the government to do the following:

1. Pass an “Uyghur Act” that will call for:
 - Immediate closure of all concentration and other camps and the release of all those detained;
 - Restoration of religious and cultural freedoms guaranteed by the Chinese constitution for the Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples in Xinjiang region; and
 - Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region to be able to communicate freely with relatives overseas.
2. Full access of independent monitors to Xinjiang region, including from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
3. Implementation of the recommendations in para. 42 (and other relevant recommendations) of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination’s August 2018 Concluding Observations on the combined fourteenth to seventeenth periodic reports of China (UN Document CERD/C/CHN/CO/14-17); and, Imposed Sanctions on individuals.
4. Sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Act with respect to senior Chinese officials directly responsible for the ongoing repression in Xinjiang region.

5. Restrictions on export, re-export, and in-country transfers of items providing critical capability to the suppression currently practised in the Xinjiang region (such as surveillance technology produced by HUAWEI and ZTE) or of items produced by slave labour (such as Chinese Cotton).

6. Restrictions on research and educational collaborations and exchanges with Chinese institutions, professional bodies and companies (such as Beijing Genomics Inc, and HUAWEI) that have critical roles in suppression in the Xinjiang region (including professions involved in forced organ harvesting, abortion and sterilisation).

7. Representations to the International Olympic Committee to remove the Winter Olympics 2022 from China for breaching the human rights and dignity provisions of the Olympic Charter.

8. Representations to the UN to remove China from its Human Rights Committee and to the World Bank to cease loans to China.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope I have inspired you to speak up on behalf of the Uyghurs.

Yours sincerely,

<INSERT NAME>