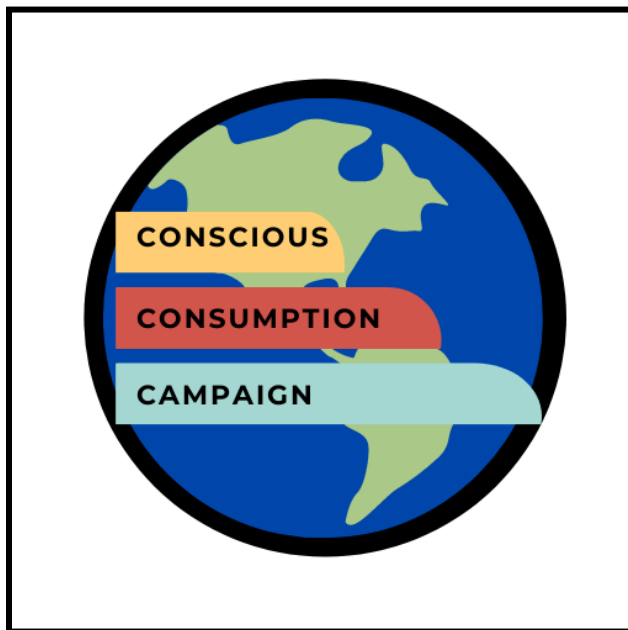


Conscious Consumption Campaign

Lobby Guide

#STAND4ConsciousConsumption



Lobbying 101:

1. Schedule

Most legislators have contact information on their websites. When requesting a meeting, make sure to include that you are a constituent and give a brief description of items you wish to discuss so they can make sure to set up a meeting with the right staffer. While legislators occasionally join meetings with constituents it is likely that you will be meeting with a staff member rather than the legislator themselves. The staff member will then use information from your meeting to brief/advise the legislator on the issue.

2. Prep

Decide who will be going to the meeting and set up a time to go over your goals and plans for the meeting. Research your legislators and find out if they have taken a stance on this issue in the past, what committees they are on and what issues seem to be important to them and their constituency. Prepare for questions/concerns accordingly.

3. Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to meet. I am [name] and [how you're connected to the state]. We are here with STAND: The Student-Led Movement to End Mass Atrocities, a nationwide student network working to educate our communities on genocide and mass atrocities and advocate to end and prevent such atrocities.

4. Personal Story (or Thank You - either can come first!)

Especially if this is your first time meeting this staff member, we recommend providing a personal story about why you care about stopping genocide and mass atrocities and why Congressional support for these issues is important to you and your community. This is optional, but extraordinarily effective!

5. Thank You

We want to thank the [senator/representative] for [his/her] work to date on international issues, including [use your research on the legislator's experiences here]

6. Summary/Talking Points

We wanted to chat today to share some of our legislative priorities for the Fall, including overarching violence prevention issues and some conflict-specific opportunities we hope that [Senator/Representative] will consider engaging on.

7. Questions

After sharing the legislation, give time for those in the meeting to ask questions or clarify. It can also be helpful to ask what their main concerns with the proposed legislation might be if they are hesitant to support. If you are asked a question that you don't know the answer to, feel free to say "I'm not sure of the answer to that, let me do some research and follow up with you".

8. Follow Up

A few days after the meeting, send a follow up email to your contact within the office. Make sure to thank them for their time, follow up on questions that you were not able to answer during the meeting and attach a virtual copy of leave-behind materials. It can also be helpful to contact the office with any important updates on the legislation and before it is voted on in congress.

Talking Points:

Uyghur-Related

There is evidence that the Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim ethnic groups in the region of Xinjiang, China/East Turkistan have been systematically targeted in what appears to be a campaign of genocide. Hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs were placed in so-called “re-education camps” and it has recently become evident that within and outside of these camps, the Chinese government is using Uyghurs as forced labor to manufacture products sold around the world.

Approximately one in five cotton garments sold globally contains cotton or yarn from the Xinjiang region in northwestern China. As of now, we know that items sold by brands such as Nike, Adidas, Calvin Klein, H&M, Ralph Lauren, and many more are produced or manufactured in Xinjiang, likely using forced labor. Because there is such little access to the region (Xinjiang) companies and others are unable to determine what is produced there with forced labor and what is not.

The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act aims to hold the Chinese government accountable for the use of forced labor in the Xinjiang region and to ensure that goods produced through forced labor do not enter the United States. Goods manufactured or produced in Xinjiang will only be allowed to enter the United States if Customs and Border Protection (1) determines that the goods were not manufactured by convict labor, forced labor, or indentured labor under penal sanctions; and (2) reports such a determination to Congress and to the public. Additionally, this bill would require the President to report any foreign entities and individuals who are knowingly facilitating the forced labor of Uyghurs or other targeted ethnic minority groups to Congress. Subsequently, these individuals and entities would face property and visa-blocking sanctions.

This bill is bipartisan and bicameral.

(Senate version) S.3471 was introduced on March 12, 2020 and currently has [24 cosponsors](#) (14R, 10D).

(House version) H.R.6210 was introduced on March 11, 2020 and currently has [84 cosponsors](#) (23R, 61D). It passed by a vote of 406-3 on September 22, 2020.

Yemen Related

As the Yemeni Civil War approaches six years, more and more civilians are put at risk. The majority of civilian casualties have been caused by the Saudi-led coalition which gets the majority of its arms from the United States. Using American F-15s, the Saudi-led coalition has not only directly killed civilians but also destroyed critical infrastructure like schools and markets, leaving 14 million people at risk of famine and thousands of civilians dead.

We urge our legislators to end arms sales to Saudi Arabia and logistical support to the Saudi military. Ending the influx of weapons and American logistical support is imperative to ending the bombing campaigns that cause mass damage to civilian infrastructure and kill high numbers of civilians at once. This will help push the Saudi-led coalition to a point where

they are interested in negotiations that recognize the concerns of both sides and allow innocent people to rebuild their countries.

Although there have been many concerns about the Houthis, whom the Saudi-led coalition is opposing, any path forward must recognize the value of all citizens' input. We should be supporting democratic resolution of conflict, not furthering it.

Burma-Related

Democratic elections in 2015 ushered in hope that ethnic conflicts would end, but civilian protection of minorities, particularly the Kachin, Shan, and Rohingya, continues to be a grave concern. The Rohingya have been denied citizenship for decades and remain extremely vulnerable. A crackdown against the Rohingya in 2017 led over 700,000 to flee to the neighboring country of Bangladesh. By September of 2018, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said there were more than 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

The Gambia has brought Burma to the International Court of Justice for the crime of genocide. In an initial ruling in January of 2020, the court urged Burma to take provisional measures to ensure that acts of genocide against the Rohingya. The adjudication and documentation process will continue for years before a decision is made. While the **House** has voted to label the Rohingya crisis a genocide and passed **the BURMA Act**, the U.S. government maintains a friendly relationship with the Burmese government.

The Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act (in the Senate) seeks to promote democracy and human rights in Burma as well as alleviate the plight of the Rohingya. It would impose financial sanctions and visa restrictions on high-ranking military officials in Burma as well as forbid U.S. financial institutions from engaging with them. It would prohibit the provision of military assistance to the Burmese military until it shows significant progress in addressing human rights issues. The Secretary of State would be required to submit a report describing the incidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide, and analyzing the feasibility of transitional justice mechanisms that could be implemented.

S. 1186 is sponsored by Senators Cardin, Young, and [22 others](#). It was introduced on April 11, 2019.

*The **BURMA Act** (in the House) includes many similar elements. It **applies sanctions** to perpetrators of human rights abuses, **encourages reform** in the military-dominated Burmese gemstone sector, calls for a **determination of crimes** perpetrated against the Rohingya, and **authorizes support** for preservation of evidence and transitional justice efforts. It would also require a report describing the incidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide, and analyzing the feasibility of transitional justice mechanisms that could be implemented. H.R. 3190 passed the House on September 24, 2019, by a vote of 394-21.*

Boycott 2022 Olympics

In [2008](#) when China hosted the summer games, the Chinese government promised freedom of the press, but did not allow it.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) claims that "the [Olympic](#) movement's commitment to protecting human rights is codified in the Olympic Charter." [Olympism](#) is

defined as, “a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example, social responsibility and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.” The [vision](#) of the Olympics states is “building a better world through sport.” In theory, the Olympics stands for a world free of human rights abuses, however, this is not in practice.

In 2018, Senator Marco Rubio and Representative Chris Smith, chairs of the Congressional Executive Committee on China, sent a letter to President Bach of the IOC, asking him to reassign the 2022 Winter Olympics due to the extensive ongoing human rights abuses perpetrated by the Chinese government . In March of 2020, the Senate adopted a [resolution](#) outlining a plethora of human rights abuses committed by the Chinese government and within their state, resolving that, “it is the sense of the Senate that, consistent with the principles of the International Olympic Committee, unless the Government of the People's Republic of China demonstrates significant progress in securing fundamental human rights, including the freedoms of religion, speech, movement, association, and assembly, by January 1, 2021, the International Olympic Committee should rebid the 2022 Winter Olympics to be hosted by a country that recognizes and respects human rights.” In this way, our legislators have already committed to this issue.

Since the IOC did not relocate the 2022 Olympics, we call on the United States government and athletes to boycott this winter Olympics by choosing not to send athletes to represent our country. The 117th Congress, sponsored by Sen. Scott Rick (R-FL), put for S. Res. 13- A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the International Olympic Committee should rebid the 2022 Winter Olympic Games to be hosted by a country that recognizes and respects human rights. Ask your senators to sponsor this resolution.

Peace through Athletics

The United Nations is also dedicated to the idea of promoting peace and development through sport. In a 2015 [resolution](#), the General Assembly adopted this statement, “Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”

The UN recommitted these values in 2018 during a Human Rights Council [session](#), recognizing how sports can help achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and developing panel discussions prior to the summer Olympics about promoting human rights through sports. It specifically [states](#) that it will be “taking into account the need to address and prevent improper practices of stakeholders engaged in the organization and preparation of sport events, which may lead to human rights violations and abuses and negatively affect the economic, social and environmental spheres.” Thus, the United Nations should be invested in ensuring host countries are not currently violating human rights.