

RESOLUTION

Placing the Treatment of Uyghurs at the Centre of the European Union's China

Policy

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting via Zoom, 24.04.2021

Recognising that:

1. The treatment of the twelve million population of Uyghur Muslims, Buddhists and Christians in the Xinjiang province in China raises grave concerns. There are currently between one and three million Uyghur Muslims interned in concentration camps where they are subjected to slave labour, including the production of cotton. 85% of China's cotton comes from Xinjiang and China supplies half of the world's cotton. When companies such as H&M, Nike, Hugo Boss, Adidas, and Burberry registered their concern regarding slave labour in the province, Chinese Communist Party proxies urged a boycott of their products.
2. Uyghurs are compelled to attend indoctrination classes in which they are forced to commit acts contrary to their Islamic faith, such as consuming pork products, and renounce their unique culture, language, and traditions. Since 2017, men have been prohibited from wearing long beards while veils are proscribed, and mosques and shrines have been demolished.
3. Widespread and credible reports highlight a horrific system of imprisonment in which detainees are subjected to forced abortions and forced sterilisations. Minority (non-Han) women are compelled to take pregnancy checks and forced to insert intrauterine devices into their body. In Xinjiang, urban families are limited to having two children and in agrarian areas restrict families to three children and this conflicts with the traditionally large family sizes of the Uyghur community. Persons



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who exceed the child limit are incarcerated in internment camps where they are separated from their families. Birth rates in the Uyghur majority regions of Hotan and Kashgar have fallen 60% from 2015 to 2018. China's National Bureau of Statistics states that the Xinjiang's birth-rate in 2020 was 8.14 births per 1000 people which is half the 2017 figure of 15.99 births per 1000 people. While Chinese birth rates are declining, the reductions in areas where Uyghurs are concentrated far exceeds the national average. Regardless of whether this fulfils the legal definition of genocide, it is demographic genocide.

4. Substantial evidence also points to systematic rape and sexual torture within these camps, in which prison guards gang-rape or receive payment to allow outsiders to rape female internees. Uyghur women are forced to strip and handcuff other female detainees before they are raped by Han men. This constitutes an organised system of mass rape.
5. Uyghurs are also subjected to interrogations, beatings, and torture. This includes whippings with metal tubes or plastic rods, food deprivation, solitary confinement, electrocution, restraints, and stress positions.

Acknowledging that:

1. The United States State Department under both Secretary Pompeo in the Trump Administration and Secretary Blinken in the Biden Administration have classified the barbaric treatment of Uyghur Muslims as genocide. Several European Union member state parliaments have introduced and passed motions declaring the treatment of Uyghurs a genocide.
2. In response to sanctions on officials in Xinjiang camps, China retaliated by sanctioning prominent MEPs and think-tankers who have criticised their oppression. Increasing commerce and trade with a nation who cannot tolerate any



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criticism may allow China to blackmail or coerce European nations into silence about human rights abuses.

3. Considering the recent history of the European continent, there is an obligation on all EU member states never to condone, tolerate, ignore, or facilitate genocide and crimes against humanity. To stay silent while such barbarous treatment is inflicted against Uyghurs is anathema to European values. “Never again” must not become empty rhetoric, the European Union must mean it.

YEPP Calls For:

1. Further sanctions on officials involved in the running of detention camps in Xinjiang, private and government owned companies that use forced Xinjiang labour or cooperate with those, who use it, as well as those within the Chinese Communist Party who direct and promote oppressive policies against Uyghurs. All sanctions against European Union parliamentarians or officials must be responded to with appropriate reprisals.
2. All European Union diplomatic meetings with Chinese representatives should include raising the plight of Uyghurs.
3. Seek an alternative venue for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. Attending these Games in China would provide a propaganda victory for the Chinese Communist Party and legitimise their treatment of Uyghurs. If the Olympics cannot be relocated, European Union member states should not send official diplomatic representation and refuse to participate in the opening ceremony.
4. The EU to support the proposal of the previous US Secretary Pompeo and current US President Biden to create a summit of world democracies that will discuss the state of human rights in the world and will address challenges posed by authoritarian practices of various states.