

1. Mission Statement

The Torah teaches Jews to protect our neighbours as well as our own community. Judaism declares an overriding duty to preserve life. Magen Avot's Uyghur Group invites members to reflect on how they can best put such obligations into practical effect. We take particular note of the Torah injunction "You shall also love the Stranger, for you were Strangers in the land of Egypt" (Deut 10:17-19"). The Uyghur situation is analogous. Accordingly, in accordance with our Ethos, Magen Avot encourages members to consider avoiding using products made by, or engaging with any entities knowingly benefiting from, Uyghur slave labour. This will be done by asking suppliers about the provenance of their items. Whilst we encourage individual members of Magen Avot to follow this ideal, this Statement hopefully reflects the wishes of Magen Avot as a Community.

2. Our Aims

Our aim is to call out the plight of the Uyghur Muslim minority in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and to highlight acts of discrimination against this community and their religious freedoms. We are an Orthodox Jewish community who are fortunate to exist in a vibrant and multi-cultural society but are all too conscious of the anti-Semitic crimes of the past perpetrated against our own communities, as well as the resurgence of this prejudice in the UK and across the globe. We feel it a moral and religious imperative to call out the discrimination against the Uyghur people and, having heard the call to action from the experts in this field at the Conference we organised in July 2021 (a recording of which is available here: - <https://theus.tv/timeforaction>), we are suggesting the following list of actions which our members may wish to take to protest the abuses committed against the Uyghur community in the PRC. These actions are designed to provide a response to the entities we understand promote and/or participate in the framework of religious oppression against the Uyghur minority.

3. The Legal Justification

In December 2021 a panel of experts, mainly lawyers, published a Report which was submitted to the United Nations which concluded (at paragraphs 180 and following) that: "**In the judgment of the Uyghur Tribunal:-**

Torture of Uyghurs attributable to the PRC is established beyond reasonable doubt. The Tribunal has considered: acts by which severe pain or suffering whether physical or mental, qualifying as torture have been recorded by every witness giving evidence about detention centres throughout Xinjiang; the failure of any recorded discipline or control of those reported over time as having tortured detainees and those being interviewed; together with the general evidence of top down control in *all* matters - and is satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that torture has been inflicted throughout the period leading up to 2021, by or at the instigation of, or with the consent or acquiescence of, public officials or other persons acting in official capacities of the PRC (Peoples Republic of China) and/or CCP (Chinese Communist Party)

Crimes against humanity attributable to the PRC is established beyond reasonable doubt by acts of: deportation or forcible transfer; imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty; torture; rape and other sexual violence; enforced sterilisation; persecution; enforced disappearance; and other inhumane acts.

As to **genocide**, all elements of an intended genocide to be accomplished by a Convention-listed act imposing measures to prevent births within the group are established, (and....) on the basis of evidence heard in public, the Tribunal is satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the PRC, by the imposition of measures to prevent births intended to *destroy* a significant part of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang as such, has committed genocide".

The full Tribunal Judgment can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8jy58x>.

4. Action Plan

We encourage people to: (i) inform themselves; (ii) ask questions to companies, orally and in writing at the highest levels (HQs and CEOs) to inform purchasing choices; (iii) stay up to date as matters evolve, through reliable independent sources, (iv) lobby companies who do not change their practices – directly and through web and social media-based campaigns, and (v) consider purchasing from alternative sources who do publicly take measures to ensure that they are not supporting Uyghur persecution. The following ideas are put forward by way of suggestion and are not comprehensive:-

- Cotton manufactured using forced Uyghur labour** is used by companies selling to the West. Many are yet to take all credible steps to exit the Uyghur region and prevent use of forced labour of Uyghur and other Turkic and Muslim-Majority Peoples². A large number of household name brands and high street chains in the apparel and textile industry have been reported as yet to take necessary steps³. Those companies who have not taken appropriate action benefit from forced labour and therefore indirectly support the Uyghur oppression and religious persecution against them as Muslims. More information is available on companies who should be doing more and how we can all help easily from a number of sources, including:
 - www.forcedlabourfashion.org
 - <https://www.saveuyghur.org/these-brands-are-still-linked-to-uyghur-forced-labor-help-stop-them-now/>
 - the [Uyghur Forced Labor Checker](#), which notifies you when shopping with a brand that may be implicated in using Uyghur forced labour
 - #ForcedLabourFashion** or **@forcedlabourfash** on Twitter.
- Racial profiling technologies** are reported to have been developed by Huawei⁴ to help profile and monitor Uyghurs and their activities.
- The Solar panels⁵ sector** is reported as being widely tainted by forced Uyghur labour. Low carbon alternative technologies must be made possible without relying upon such actions.
- Provide support to campaigning organisations** such as [Stop Uyghur Genocide](#).
- Help call out social media influencers who are paid to spread disinformation** regarding Chinese suppression and religious discrimination of Uyghurs with the relevant platform such as YouTube. This is often bot fraud.
- When buying goods made in China avoid goods made in the Xianjing area** or which are otherwise suspected of being linked in any way to the ongoing Uyghur oppression and religious persecution.
- If a shop has no alternative to buying goods made in China**, raise it with the managers and drive home that it is important that consumers are given options to avoid supporting Chinese businesses for these reasons.
- Consider divesting any investment portfolios** of Chinese stock or investments and instruct investment advisors not to invest in these assets and to put pressure on investment funds to not invest in Chinese stock.
- Lobby e-commerce sites** like Amazon to ensure the clear labelling of the country of origin.
- Provide support to the main organisations defending the Uyghurs and promoting their cause. These include: <https://enduyghurforcedlabour.org> and www.uhrp.org/take-action.
- Boycotts** are invariably a matter of personal choice but direct approaches to directors or shop managers of offending companies may prove more effective. The customer is always right. Trading companies, especially ones with Stock Exchange Listing, are particularly susceptible to public opprobrium. Even private trading companies may be persuaded to adopt a more ethical supply chain policy.
- Continue to highlight this injustice in the public domain** with our MP's, local Councillors, and letters to the Press. A template form of a letter to your MP can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/59rpf9aw>.
- Disseminate this Manifesto** to friends and colleagues beyond our own community.

Members wishing to join this initiative, please contact: info@magenavot.com

Magen Avot Uyghur Group

Dated: March 2022

¹ Magen Avot looks to independent third-party sources for information on supply chains involving the use of forced Uyghur labour and facilitating persecution.

The information expressly referred to in this Manifesto is the sole basis for its Action Plan. We have made, and rely upon, no other factual investigation of any kind.

² [Call to Action - Coalition to End Forced Labour in the Uyghur Region \(enduyghurforcedlabour.org\)](#)

³ <https://enduyghurforcedlabour.org/fashion> ⁴ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-55634388> ⁵ <https://enduyghurforcedlabour.org/other-sectors/>