



April 2023 Lesson Plan: East Turkistan

Things to prepare BEFORE the meeting:

- Send an email reminder a week before AND the day before the meeting with the location & time
- Make a Powerpoint or Google Slides presentation with this information to easily share it
- Familiarize yourself with the information to answer any questions your members may have

Objective: To learn more about East Turkistan and the human rights atrocities against Uyghur Muslims and other minority ethnic groups in the region.

LESSON PLAN

I. Beginning of meeting

- A. It's helpful to have music playing and welcome people as they come into the room.
- B. Have a sign-in sheet ([example](#)), and make sure to send any new names to STAND national (info@standnow.org).
- C. Welcome people as they come in, and use this time to get ready by rearranging the chairs in the room and/or logging into the computer, etc.

II. Introductions

Introduce yourself and any other chapter leaders (name, position and favorite movie/song/book/other icebreaker).

III. Introduction to Topic With Activity

A. Forced Labor Bingo

- This activity is designed to introduce chapter members to the atrocities in East Turkistan, officially known as Xinjiang, China, through a bingo game made up of companies currently using forced Uyghur labor
- We have made [sample bingo cards](#), feel free to edit, resize, and print them for chapter use!
- Play a game of bingo, randomly generating a company name to read out each round, and reward the winner with candy or another fun incentive!
- Through this activity, members will see how widespread the use of forced labor is, giving them insight into the oppression and exploitation of Uyghurs
- Feel free to follow up with more information about the crisis and the role forced labor plays in the exploitation of the Uyghurs

Amazon	Burberry	Jimmy Choo	Michael Kors	Versace
Costco	Guess	Hanes	Hermès	Walmart
Aigle	Lacoste		Muji	Nike
Converse	Ralph Lauren	Tapestry Inc.	Coach	Kate Spade
Stuart Weitzman	Urban Outfitters	Anthropologie	Free People	Capri Holdings

Note: after the recent passage of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, goods imported in the US can no longer be sourced from East Turkistan unless it is proven that they are not made with forced labor. Still, some companies are suspected to continue to illegally use it in their supply chains, and it is valuable to pay attention to recent histories of forced labor use. It is still a problem as well, since other countries have not passed similar legislation.



IV. Background on the Crisis in East Turkistan

A. Timeline of Historical Atrocities

- The Uyghurs are a Turkic Muslim group who live in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region, a province in northwest China. Many who live there reject this as a colonial name and have chosen the name East Turkistan, which we use in solidarity.
- The crisis in East Turkistan began before the first reports of re-education camps in 2017. It is the culmination of decades of treatment as second-class citizens and centuries of ethnic and religious differences.
- China's creeping control over the Uyghurs—a Turkic Muslim ethnic group—began in 1949 when the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) government annexed the region.
- From the 1950s to before the 1970s, the CCP began a crackdown on the Uyghurs and other minority ethnic groups by denouncing religious and ethnic differences, especially Islam
- During the Cultural Revolution (1966–76), mosques and religious texts were destroyed and religious leaders and their followers were prosecuted.
- From the 1970s to the end of the 20th century, this process of forced assimilation died down to an extent.
- Following the September 11th attacks in the US, the CCP launched military and police campaigns to crackdown on the “three evils of separatism, extremism and terrorism,” in the words of then-president Hu Jintao.
- While it is true that these three forces exist in East Turkestan (Especially in 2014, when radical Uyghur separatists killed 43 civilians in a suicide bombing attack), it would be absolutely false to believe that every single Uyghur Muslim falls into one of these three categories and morally suspect to use such attacks as a justification for their subsequent treatment.

B. The Current Crisis

- An estimated one million Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups in East Turkistan have been held in re-education camps, although the total number is unknown.
- People have been detained for arbitrary and discriminatory reasons such as practicing their religion, international travel, expressing political dissent or being related to someone who does so, and even simply growing a beard. These are excuses to target Muslims with no rational legal backing.
- Systems of mass surveillance monitor Uyghurs in East Turkistan, and a recent report of leaked government documents, linked in the extra resources section, exemplifies this.
- In these camps, people have faced torture, sexual violence, and forced sterilizations, along with programs designed to strip people of their culture and indoctrinate them.
- Additionally, the so-called vocational skills training programs are actually systems of forced labor that coerce Uyghurs and other oppressed minority groups into exploitative labor systems that are a part of countless global corporations' supply chains.
- Many people have come forward to speak about their experiences and call for action, but this puts their families at risk of retaliation.
- Forced assimilation is cultural genocide.



C. Alim's Story

- Alim, a young Uyghur man, who was arrested because he had studied abroad and was therefore deemed a potential terrorist.
- Upon being taken in, he was subjected to a "health check," which involved the collection of DNA, blood type, fingerprints, and voice and face signature - a routine process that all adults in the Xinjiang region undergo
- Of the 21.8 million people living in the region, the government claims to be in possession of 18.8 million people's biometric data.
- After this, he was taken to a detention center where he was deprived of food and sleep, isolated, and subjected to psychological interrogation for hours on end.
- There, he was joined by many other Muslims who were jailed, not for serious offenses, but for practicing Islam without the permission of the state.
- While Alim was lucky enough to be released after two weeks, this is not the case for most. Even today, despite being free, surveillance profiling systems will alert the police any time he enters a government building, putting him at risk of further harm.

Discussion: The Chinese Government's policies of mass-incarceration and surveillance have been described as a "People's War on Terror", which much like the American war on terror, began with attacks by religious extremists and ethnic groups calling for independence. In what ways are America's War on Terror and China's War on Terror similar and/or different? How do racism and xenophobia affect each nation's policies and overall outlook?

V. Video

This is a brief overview of what has and still is happening to the Uyghur people of East Turkistan.
<https://youtu.be/tXyUL2WW-tc>

VI. Background on Policy: The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA)

A. What is the UFLPA?

- The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) is an act that was signed on December 23, 2021 by President Biden.
- It is a federal law that bans the import of any good produced in East Turkistan, or Xinjiang, China made under forced labor conditions due to the ongoing oppression and exploitation of the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities
- Customs and Border Protection (CBP) ensures that imported goods are not produced from convict labor, forced labor, or indentured labor.
- Supply chain tracing practices are used to evaluate the imports.

B. Why This is an Important Policy

- It ensures that the United States is not subsidizing the forced labor of ethnic minorities in East Turkistan.
- It constructs a strategy to halt imports of products made with this forced labor.
- Its overall goal is to stop financially supporting China's exploitation of the Uyghurs through forced labor.



VII. Actions

Now that you and your chapter have some general background information on the crisis in Yemen and the Yemen War Powers Resolution, here are some actions you can take! Some of them are short and can be done in the span of one meeting, while others require a bit more planning but could be a good long-term campaign. Choose what fits best with your members' interests, skills, and availability!

A. Write an op-ed (opinion piece) to publish in your local newspaper educating people about East Turkistan and encouraging them to take action.

- a. This action takes some planning, but if your members are interested in writing, a writing campaign can be fun and engaging, as well as useful for raising community awareness.
- b. Use our [writing guide](#) for tips, and reach out to STAND for help editing if you'd like.
- c. We recommend reaching out to your school newspaper and any local/city/state ones that take op-ed submissions
- d. Share survivors' stories, give people a basic overview of the issue, and call on your local government officials to do something!
- e. Each member can write their own, or you can all collaborate and each write a paragraph.

B. Make educational posters to hang up at school or in your community

- a. This is a relatively easy creative activity best done in an in-person group
- b. Have each member design a poster (or multiple!) sharing information they learned in the meeting today
- c. For the last 10 minutes at the end of the meeting, walk around school and hang the posters up!
- d. This is a great way to educate people at the local community level!

C. Sign Petitions to Stop Companies From Using Forced Uyghur Labor

- a. This is a really quick way to take action and can be done in the span of just a few minutes!
- b. Despite the UFLPA's recent passage, many companies are still suspected of using illegally-sourced materials made with forced labor
- c. The [#forcedlaborfashion](#) campaign has compiled a list of petitions for companies like Zara, Apple, Nike, and Hugo Boss to urge them to end their use of forced labor
 - i. <https://www.forcedlabourfashion.org/brands>
- d. This petition gives a background on companies profiting from systems of forced labor in their supply chains and demands an end to forced Uyghur labor
 - i. <https://www.freedomunited.org/advocate/free-uyghurs/>

VIII. Conclusion

1. Conclude the meeting with a thank you, and ask about future meeting dates. Ask students about feedback about the meeting and some things they liked or didn't like to make adjustments in the future and make everybody feel engaged.
2. Make sure to mention the resources that were given and other topics that were discussed.



3. Follow up after the meeting to let people know about things you will be doing in the future and invite people to get more involved. Consider including a form for people to provide any other feedback or information about how they would like to participate.
4. Please send any pictures you took of activities or other parts of the meeting to info@standnow.org to be featured in our chapter newsletter or on our social media!

Extra Resources

- STAND page on East Turkistan. <https://standnow.org/east-turkistan/>
- United States Holocaust Museum Report. <https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries/china/case-study/current-risks/chinese-persecution-of-the-uyghurs>
- Leaked Government Documents. <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2023/02/asia/china-police-data-leak-uyghur-families/index.html>
- Experiences Inside the Camps. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/24/china-cables-leak-no-escapes-reality-china-uyghur-prison-camp>
- Forced Labor. <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/8/18/forced-labour-claims-in-chinas-xinjiang-reasonable-union-expert>
- Information on the UFLPA. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/uyghur-forced-labor-prevention-act-goes-effect>
- Forced Labor Fashion Report Cards <https://www.forcedlabourfashion.org/report-cards>
- Alim's Story <https://logicmag.io/china/ghost-world/>