

<YOUR ADDRESS INCL POSTCODE>

<DATE>

Dear <MP>,

CHINA AND THE UYGHURS

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

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. These people have not committed criminal offences. They are detained for reasons as trivial as having contact with family abroad, or refusing to drink alcohol. 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 truth 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, including facial recognition technology and collection of DNA samples. Chinese firms are gaining a world-leading reputation in surveillance technology, but this is built on the oppression of the Uyghur people.

René Cassin, the Jewish human rights charity, recently hosted an event to discuss the persecution of Uyghurs and what the Jewish community can do to oppose this. At this event we heard harrowing accounts of the treatment of Uyghurs in detention, including cases of women who have had their children taken off them.

As a Jewish person, I believe I have a special responsibility to speak up in the face of this injustice, and to bear witness to what is happening. Xinjiang might seem like a long way away but as a major trading partner with China, I hope you agree that our Government could be doing far more.

I am asking you to table written questions to the Foreign Office asking Ministers to raise the human rights situation in Xinjiang with the Chinese government. Please could you ask the Minister what representations he is making to the Chinese government about mass arbitrary detention in Xinjiang? You could also ask whether he will press the Chinese government to allow international observers unrestricted access into the camps. And you could ask Ministers at the Department for International Trade whether they will place restrictions on importing surveillance technology and equipment which has been linked with oppression in Xinjiang.

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

Yours sincerely,

<INSERT NAME>