



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INTERCONGREGATIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROMOTES
UNDERSTANDING OF, AND ACTIVISM AGAINST
THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT PERSECUTION OF THE UYGHURS

BETHESDA, MARYLAND - Members of Maryland's Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) and Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC), joined together in the Inter Congregational Partnership Committee (ICPC), want you to know more about the persecution of the Uyghurs, or Muslim Chinese, and how you can advocate on their behalf. The ICPC is holding a panel presentation on April 12, 2021 at 8 pm EDT to detail the steps taken by the Chinese government against this minority ethnic group and offer actions to combat them. ***To view the event and join in, please register at: <https://www.bethesdajewish.org/event/stopthegenocide>.***

The Uyghurs are Muslim Chinese, belonging to one of the 56 officially recognized ethnic groups of China. They live in Xinjiang Province in Northwestern China. For the past few years, the Chinese government has subjected them to arbitrary and brutal imprisonment and forced into labor camps. Men have been taken from their towns and separated from their families. Women are forcibly sterilized, and the population is re-educated for the purpose of eradicating Uyghur religion, culture, and language. Children are sent to indoctrination centers.

"We cannot stand by idly as genocide, oppression, and slavery are inflicted against the Uyghurs. After the Holocaust, we vowed 'NEVER AGAIN,' "declared Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer of BJC. "Please join our distinguished panel on April 12th at 8 p.m. to learn all about this unfolding tragedy and how you can help us to fulfill this vow on behalf of the Uyghurs," he said.



Serena Oberstein is the Executive Director of Jewish World Watch, a faith-based organization combating genocide founded in 2004. Previously, she was the California Director of Bend the Arc and the founding Southwest Regional Director of J Street. From 2014—2018, Serena served on the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission. With a background in public service and the Jewish communal sector, she has worked to create solutions for those in need in the nonprofit and public sectors.



Rayhan Asat is currently an Uyghur human rights attorney and a former anti-corruption attorney with a major U.S. law firm. Her legal and policy work centers around enforcing international human rights norms, civil liberties, curtailing forced labor, and promoting corporate accountability, especially as regards the atrocities in Xinjiang. She is a senior fellow at the Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights and is also the founder and president of the American Turkic International Lawyers Association.



Lina Lenberg is involved in the national movement for human rights education as a steering committee member and Northern California regional representative for Human Rights Educators USA. Lina has been active in the United Nations Association of San Francisco and served as the Chair of the Human Rights Committee. In addition to working as a classroom teacher, Lina is a managing editor for the International Journal of Human Rights Education at the University of San Francisco, where she is currently pursuing her doctoral degree.



Eva Dou is presently The Washington Post's China business and economy correspondent. A Detroit native, she attended the University of Missouri and earned a BA dual-degree in Economics and Journalism. Formerly, Eva reported on politics and technology for the Wall Street Journal in Beijing and Taipei, Taiwan where she was part of the Wall Street Journal team that won the 2018 Loeb Award in international reporting, for a series on China. In addition to English, she speaks Mandarin Chinese

For more information visit:

jww.org

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av-embeds/22278037/vpid/p05wv8tc>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/china-genocide-olympics-uyghurs-xinjiang/2021/03/17/d892816c-75b7-11eb-9489-8f7dacd51e75_story.html

<https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/china-83-major-brands-implicated-in-report-on-forced-labour-of-ethnic-minorities-from-xinjiang-assigned-to-factories-across-provinces-includes-company-responses/>

Bethesda Jewish Congregation is more than a synagogue. It is an inspiring, inclusive community that welcomes all. It is co-located at 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, Maryland, with Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. BJC and BHPC celebrate the more than 50 years of their interfaith partnership, the longest such partnership in America.

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church is a 700-person congregation in Bethesda, Md., is a welcoming and caring community of friends. BJC and BHPC celebrate a more than 50-year covenant as "spiritual siblings," the longest such association in the United States.

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