



## **Oral Statement by the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute**

58th Session of the Human Rights Council

General Debate - Item 2

3 March 2025

### **The Situation Of Uyghurs in Xinjiang and Modern-Day Slavery in the Supply Chain**

The IBA's Human Rights Institute (the IBAHRI) is highly concerned that the situation of the Uyghur community in Xinjiang, including the allegations of genocide and crimes against humanity against the ethno-religious minority group, and the ever-growing reports of the use of Uyghur forced labour in the supply chain. The IBAHRI is also highly concerned about reports of countries, including Thailand, deporting Uyghurs to China where they may face mistreatment.

More than two years after the report of the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, identifying gross human rights violations in Xinjiang that may amount to crimes against humanity, the Human Rights Council failed to discuss its findings and identify adequate responses. The report made several important recommendations, including those pertaining to justice and accountability.

As the human rights violations against the community continue, the Joint Committee of Human Rights in the UK Parliament is currently examining the issue of Uyghur forced labour in the supply chain - to identify the needed responses and ensure that consumers in the UK are not complicit in the crimes. This should be done globally as well.

The situation of Uyghurs in Xinjiang requires urgent attention from the UN, through a truly victim/survivor-centric approach.

The IBAHRI calls upon the High Commissioner and this Council to:

- Without any further delay, decide to have an in-depth discussion, session, or intersessional debate on the findings of the report and responses needed;
- Continue the ongoing monitoring of, and public reporting on, the human rights situation in Xinjiang, including the issue of modern-day slavery;

- Ensure that the voices of victims/survivors are heard and they are fully involved in all decisions that concern them.

Thank you.

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