

End Exploitation: An Immersive Experience

Uyghur People in China Station Follow-up

The plight of the Uyghur people, and members of other predominantly Muslim ethnic minority groups, in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), and across China, has drawn international concern for nearly a decade. Various reports and evidence indicate that Chinese authorities have constructed a system of repression involving arbitrary detention, mass surveillance, forced assimilation, and coercive labor programs. The U.S. Government has described these measures as genocide, state-imposed forced labor, and crimes against humanity. In response, the United States passed the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) in 2021 to prevent products linked to forced labor from entering the U.S. market.

Investigations by the United Nations, international human rights organizations, and governments have traced forced labor to multiple sectors, including but not limited to the following:

Cotton and textiles:

Xinjiang produces about 20% of the world's cotton, and Uyghur forced labor has been documented at both the harvesting and ginning stages.

Tomatoes and food processing:

Xinjiang is the source of much of China's tomato paste exports, used globally in ketchup and other processed foods.

Solar industry:

Polysilicon produced in Xinjiang feeds a significant portion of the global solar panel market.

Metals and construction materials:

Aluminum, steel, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) from Xinjiang are widely used in automotive and building products.

Electronics and machinery:

Labor transfers connect Uyghur workers to electronics assembly plants in other provinces, embedding coercion deeper in global supply chains.

This forced labor system is not limited to Xinjiang. Workers are routinely transferred thousands of miles to other parts of China, often under constant surveillance, where they remain isolated from their communities and families.

From the [Policy and Advocacy Report](#), 9.3.2025, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

More Resources (click on the title to be directed to the resource):

[Campaign for Uyghurs](#)

[Department of Labor Article](#)

[Interactive Article from the New Yorker](#)

[International Network for Critical China Studies Report](#)

[ABC News In-Depth Report](#)

[The Xinjiang Police Files](#)