

Good morning and thank you for joining us for this UN HRC 45 side event, 'China Bans Faith for All Children.' All attendees are joined in listen only mode. If you have questions, please use the question and answer feature in the panel and we'll do our best to get our questions over to the panelists so that they may answer them. I'll now turn the webinar over to Ms. Buwalda for an introduction.

(ANN BUWALDA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JUBILEE CAMPAIGN)- Thank you all for joining us. Welcome to this official side event of the United Nations Human Rights Council. This is being hosted by the Jubilee Campaign. Jubilee Campaign is in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Today's topic is focused on the fact that China bans faith for all children. We have a number of speakers today lined up with a variety of minority religious faiths in China and they will be sharing their testimonies and providing their expertise regarding this topic. The People's Republic of China must take immediate steps to ensure the right to freedom of religion and belief for all children in China. The Chinese Communist Party must cease violence against children as it's perpetrated against children of all faith. That must end.

I am the executive director of the Jubilee Campaign. My name is Ann Buwalda. And again, we welcome you to this side event.

Our first speaker during the side event is Emilie Kao. She's an attorney who currently works for The Heritage Foundation. She has defended religious freedom for the last 14 years. She has worked on behalf of victims of religious freedom violations in East Asia, the Middle East, Europe, South Asia, and has worked at the State Department's Office of International religious freedom as well as the Becket Law Foundation. Previously, she worked at the United Nations and Latham and Watkins. Ms. Kao also taught international human rights law at George Mason University law school as an adjunct law professor. She earned an A.B. degree in Near Eastern Civilizations and Languages at Harvard-Radcliffe College and she earned her J.D. at Harvard Law School. She's a member of the Supreme Court and the bar associations of California and the District of Columbia. Ms. Kao has traveled extensively in China and has written on the topic of human rights violations perpetrated by authorities in China. Ms. Kao was the East Asia-Pacific Team Leader of the Office of International Religious freedom at the U.S. Department of State

from 2005 to 2012, and she participated in the U.S.-China Human Rights Dialogue in both the Bush and the Obama administrations.

I would like to have attorney Emilie Kao to give us a background on the legal framework and to demonstrate in what ways that religious freedom for children is being violated in China. Ms. Kao, I'd like to turn the mic over to you.

(EMILIE KAO, ESQ., DIRECTOR, DEVOS CENTER FOR RELIGION & CIVIL SOCIETY, THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION)- Thank you and good morning. Thank you so much Ann and Jubilee Campaign for inviting me to participate in this important event, and thank you to all the panelists and the audience for joining today. I'd like to start with a simple statement from professor Robert George: "All people are conscientious truth seekers, and that includes children." Children are conscientious truth seekers. When a child asks 'why is the sky blue?' or 'why is the grass green?' 'where do we come from?' and 'where do we go after this life?' they are seeking the truth just as adults do. They, too, want to know if there's a creator, if that creator knows them, and if so, how should they live.

International law guarantees children the freedom to seek the truth and to live according to their consciences. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in article 1 describes human beings as endowed with human dignity and points to two pieces of evidence for that: our endowment with reason and with conscience. As children in their evolving capacities to use both reason and conscience seek the truth, both the UDHR, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child protect their freedom to do so. Article 14 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that "State Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion." China's constitution in article 36 also protects the right of children to seek religious belief, and it guarantees non-discrimination on the basis of religion.

And yet the reality - as we will hear today - in China is far different. The government's overlapping network of national, provincial, and local regulations censor religion from every part of a child's life from the public square to literature, media, and social media, to school and even in the home. The 2018 Regulations on Religious Affairs have been interpreted to ban attendance at church and other houses of worship, to prohibit children from attending religious activities such as religious summer camps or religious instruction as in Sunday school. The

ensorship of religion in the lives of children serves the Communist Party's goal of ideological control. They equate pro-atheism with being pro-communist with being pro-China. As the Jubilee Campaign report to the United Nations on the Sustainable Development Goals states, it quotes a government official, a school director who says: "if too many people turn to religion, then no one will believe in the Communist Party."

The Communist Party's censorship of religion violates several guarantees in the Convention on the Rights of the Child: the children's right to receive religious upbringing from their parents in article 14; the right to non-discrimination on the basis of religion in article 2; the right to freedom of expression in article 13; and the right of minority children to be raised in their indigenous religious and cultural traditions in article 30.

The Chinese Communist Party has enforced these policies through draconian punishments against adults and indoctrination of children, including forcing teachers to sign pledges not to attend religious services, requiring both parents and children not to attend religious services or participate in religious activities, and even encouraging children to report on their parents if they teach religion. Children from all religious backgrounds are being discriminated against and their rights are being violated: children from Christian, Uyghur Muslim, Tibetan Buddhist, and Falun Gong families have experienced restrictions on their freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and interference with their families' efforts to raise them in their religious beliefs. General Secretary Xi Jinping has encouraged this sinicization of religion, but China's policies against children, teachers, and parents violate the universal human rights of all Chinese citizens.

Just like children in other countries that are represented at the United Nations, children in China should be free from government interference in their pursuit of understanding themselves, the world, and their creator. The government should not have a monopoly on answering children's questions when they ask about moral or metaphysical questions. Parents should be able to build their own families according to their own beliefs. In fact, the preamble to the Convention on the Rights of the Child acknowledges the family as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and the well-being of children.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the other international treaties that I've mentioned protect the freedom of all children in the world to seek truth and to live according to their consciences, because this is an essential part of what it means to be human. Allowing children in China to seek the truth and to live according to their consciences won't make them less Chinese, it will allow them to be fully human. Thank you very much.

(ANN BUWALDA)- Thank you, attorney Kao, that was an outstanding overview of the current framework for the situation in China related to children. Our next speaker is a survivor. We're naming him Enoch. Enoch is a former child in the People's Republic of China who suffered a great deal at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party. He and his family were persecuted for their Christian faith. Enoch's family was pressured into keeping their religious affiliation a secret for fear of retribution, but they were surveilled daily anyway. Enoch's father was arrested and detained for some period of time for his faith and Christian leadership. Concurrently, Enoch faced intimidation and threats by his peers, teachers, and government officials that he would be beaten up or rejected from colleges because of his and his family's Christian faith. I would like to turn the mic over to Enoch for him to share what he experienced in the People's Republic of China. Enoch, over to you.

(ENOCH, SURVIVOR)- Hello, so here is my testimony. Growing up as a Christian in China was a difficult experience. The Chinese Communist Party views Christianity and religion in general as a threat to its supremacy and control over the nation's people. The CCP maintains atheism as a prominent ideology because it wants to gain the worship of the people, but because Christians and other religious groups believe in a higher existence, the CCP has cracked down on religious groups and churches as a method to exert its authority over the people.

The CCP had kept a close eye on my family, in particular my father, who is a pastor because Christianity was banned in China. My parents were monitored by government officials whenever they stepped out of the house. They were under surveillance 24 hours a day and multiple neighborhood monitors were instructed to watch my family closely. What happened to my family is not a unique experience. Other pastors and church leaders that my father worked with, as well as their families, suffered from this kind of persecution as well. We were

prohibited from worshipping together in church and as a result our church was punished as well.

In school, students were taught that holding religious beliefs was strictly forbidden and that we were to only believe in the CCP. If our religious affiliations were discovered, we would receive punishment from the school. When my father was arrested for his Christian faith and leadership, I faced unkindness and discrimination at school from teachers. Government officials threatened my dad that he if he did not cooperate with them, they would hire gang members to come to my school to beat me up. They also told him that I would not be able to go to college as I would never pass the political screening because I come from a Christian family. This threatened my religious freedom, personal security, and my educational rights.

When my dad was in jail I had a different birthday. Because my dad wasn't home with us, I couldn't celebrate my birthday with him. My mom had invited a few friends from church to celebrate it with me. My dad had applied to have a phone call and it happened to be on my birthday. We were very excited about this and we felt it was God's blessing to our family. I talked to my father over the phone and I didn't really know what to say, so I asked him to sing me the happy birthday song, and at the end we both burst into tears. I had always encouraged myself that I could make it through, but at that moment I was overwhelmed with sadness. I started to realize how different my life was and how naive I was for trying to handle it by myself. For a regular kid to hear his father tell him happy birthday is a normal thing, but for me it was the most special gift that I could ever ask for. As happy as I was to hear from him, I was also saddened and angry that the government had separated me from my father when I was a kid just because we are a Christian family. My childhood experiences were tainted by the absence of my father.

Throughout the years, my family considered seeking legal redress for religious persecution that we faced. Article 36 of the constitution of China states that Chinese citizens have freedom to hold or to not hold religious beliefs. Moreover, as a minor, my right to freedom of religion or belief was also guaranteed under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, China did not fulfill its obligations to its own constitution or human rights treaties it had ratified. Every time we tried to find lawyers to represent us, though, they told us that they

couldn't handle this type of cases. We were predestined to lose our case because Chinese legislation and judicial processes are so corrupt, and because we were being persecuted in the name of CCP policies.

My family and I were stuck. As Christians in a country where religion is perceived as abnormal- and in many cases, illegal- we could never truly be free to practice our religion peacefully and without restrictions. We would be constantly afraid of being harassed by neighbors, peers, and government officials or of being thrown in prison under ridiculous charges. That a family could face so much hardship simply for being Christian in China is an issue that should be raised in all human rights and religious freedom dialogues.

Back then, when I faced persecution for my faith, and while my father was in prison, I thought it was difficult to be a Christian. I felt that if I was if I was like everyone else, I would be left alone. Thankfully, I don't feel that way anymore, and I am very proud of being a Christian now. Still, there are many children and families in China that suffer a similar situation to mine and who are deprived of this basic right to religious freedom. It is important that we don't forget to share these stories and raise the voices of these persecuted people. That is my testimony, thank you.

(ANN BUWALDA)- Thank you Enoch for sharing from your heart your testimony and what you endured. I would like to point out that Enoch as well as our next survivor who's going to give her testimony are no longer in China. It's sad, very sad, that someone who's from the beautiful and just a lovely country of China is no longer able to stay in China due to the fact that they have a religious faith, and Enoch, we appreciate your testimony this morning and we do thank you for sharing.

Our next speaker, her name is Esther. Esther is a former kindergarten school teacher who's been persecuted and imprisoned for her faith as a Christian and for her involvement in teaching children. After she became a member of The Beloved Church in Guangzhou and a teacher of Woodland kindergarten, Esther was repeatedly summoned and interrogated by educational bureau authorities regarding whether she was teaching her students Christianity or using Christian materials. She was encouraged to give up her faith and to stop teaching. Following Esther's release from a days-long detention period, she realized that she and her

husband would never be free as Christians in China and she, too, had to flee. Right now we're going to turn the mic over to Esther so that she can share her testimony and her experience.

(ESTHER, SURVIVOR)- Hello, my name is Esther, and I would like to tell you about my story of the persecution I faced at the hands of the Chinese government for my Christian faith and my work as a kindergarten principal.

Though my mother was a Christian, I was not a religious child. When I was in school I was constantly taught that atheism was the only correct way of thinking, and because my father was an atheist, I did not consider becoming Christian until later in life. In 2007, however, an incident changed my entire life and view of Christianity.

I was in a serious car accident while I was traveling to Beijing with my family. It was snowing heavily and our car flipped upside down into a nearby ditch. We were extremely lucky to have survived. One of the people who helped us told me that just two days earlier a similar accident left four people dead. I began to wonder if there was a God who had given us grace when we emerged harmless from such a dangerous event.

In the same year when I was 25 I met two Christian sisters at my workplace. Because I was interested, the three of us together would study the Bible daily. Eventually, I joined the sisters as a member of Beloved Church in Guangzhou. I was officially baptized in July 2007.

The persecution and problems I faced in China are the result of my Christian faith and the way I chose to practice it. The Chinese government looks very unfavorably on religion and they try to control it very tightly. The government gets nervous when they suspect religion is being influenced by outside factors because they view it as a threat to the country and to their power.

In 2009 I started working at Woodland kindergarten where I was surrounded by many other Christian employees. We taught our young children to be thankful, humble, joyful and have focus. Our program was not a Christian program although it was influenced by Christian ideals. In 2014, I was arrested and charged with operating an illegal business. For many years before my arrest the education

department did not take issue with the books the school used. The problem was about my faith.

In the summer of 2011, our church was working with an American team from Great Community Churches to put on a Christian summer camp program for adults and teenagers. On July 11th, I received a phone call from the education department who asked me to visit their office. One of the education department officers interrogated me and encouraged me to give up my faith to focus on working at the kindergarten. He asked me to stop my involvement with the church. He also asked me to not involve any university students in our outreach.

For the most part, the next couple years were peaceful, although I would receive phone calls from time to time from the education department asking me to stop planning religious camps for children and inquiring about the kindergarten. In 2014, I was summoned once again to the department office. I was told I would only be questioned for 24 hours and I believed this. For the first hour, all three officers took turns asking me questions. I don't remember all of the questions they asked me but I know they questioned whether the teaching materials originated from the Bible. They asked me, "Why are you teaching the children those materials?" "How many Christian teachers have you employed?" "Where did you obtain those materials?" I was then questioned by a new set of officers who took me back to the kindergarten to search for any religious or illegal materials.

They ended the questioning around 11 pm. I asked if I could go home. They said no. I asked if I can hire a lawyer. They said no. I slept that night in the question room where there was no bed and I was very cold and hungry. The next day I was transferred to the detention center where my real nightmare began. I was forced to work for long hours, slept on one bed shared with 16 women, and was questioned regularly. Over time, the other people connected with the school were also arrested. I was asked over and over again: "Do you only have Christian teachers at the school?" "Is the material based on the Bible?" "Who was involved in printing the material?"

It became even more clear that I was being unlawfully punished for two reasons- that I am a Christian and that I taught kindergarteners materials based on the Bible. I believe that the Chinese government felt that my status as a Christian and a

teacher was a threat to the ideals of atheism and nationalism that the CCP promotes and prefers to be taught in classrooms across the nation.

After having my court hearing repeatedly postponed, I was sentenced to two years in prison in April 2015. When I was released, I met up with some of the other employees of the kindergarten and they informed me that they also were told not to work in the field of education. My husband and I knew that we were being watched by the government so we were cautious about how long we stayed in one location because we didn't want to cause problems for our friends and family. My husband has been working as a full-time minister but couldn't do this when we needed to move for our safety. Since I already had a record my next arrest would be for five years or more. We couldn't live anywhere in China and be safe. We wanted to continue our ministry, so that means we would keep coming to the attention of the Chinese government, putting our family at risk. Eventually, we decided that we had to leave in order to escape persecution and find a place where we could practice our faith freely and peacefully. This is my testimony, thank you.

(ANN BUWALDA)- Thank you Esther for sharing that very compelling testimony. As you could hear in Esther's testimony, there is a concerted effort in China to expunge any kind of teaching material that might even remotely involve a Christian character or Christian ethos, and that is something which China has been targeting in recent years.

Our next speaker is Bob Fu. Bob Fu himself a survivor of persecution many years ago has been a well-known and renowned advocate. Bob Fu has done more than anyone I know on the issue of exposing religious persecution, specifically of Christian churches and even Christian lawyers who have defended - and other lawyers who have defended -Christians imprisoned for their faith or otherwise suffering persecution for their faith in China.

Bob Fu is the founder and president of ChinaAid. He is a former student leader during the Tiananmen Square democracy movement in 1989. In 1993 he graduated with a law degree on international relations from Renmin University of China in Beijing. He was a faculty member of the Beijing Party School of the CCP from 1993 to 1996. He was also a house church leader in Beijing until he and his wife were imprisoned in 1996. In 1997, he was exiled to the U.S. In 2002 he

founded ChinaAid in Philadelphia. He graduated with a PhD from Saint John's College at the University of Durham in the U.K. in the field of religious freedom. He's written many materials, he writes prolifically, and I encourage all viewers to find his materials, you will become very informed about the situation there in China.

I would now like to turn the mic over to Bob and ask that he would provide an overview of the current situation in China for Christian minorities. After Bob we're going to then turn our attention to other religious minorities in China, but for now let's turn to Bob. Thank you Ann for the introduction. Thank you everyone for attending this seminar.

(BOB FU, PRESIDENT, CHINA AID ASSOCIATION)- President Xi Jinping and his Chinese Communist Party really have started a war against the children's faith. Since he took power he has opened at least three fronts on this war against the children's faith and children's access to religious education and religious materials.

The first front was on the legal side. Under President Xi Jinping a number of measures had been taken, especially on February the 1st, 2018, the so-called new Regulation on Religious Affairs was passed and took effect. Under this new regulation, despite of a political slogan in the beginning of the regulation says "This regulation is developed in accordance with the constitution" and article 2 of the regulation said "Citizens shall have the freedom of religious belief." However, contrary to these fake claims, what has been happening both on the ground and also in the legal front is neither constitutional nor complying to the requirement of freedom of religious belief of China's own constitution and certainly the international norms as attorney Emilie Kao just listed.

With the pretext of so-called adapt to socialism or socialist society, according to article 4 of this new regulation, and it also requires all religious groups, religious institutions to practice the core socialist values, and more importantly to what we are talking about the education or you know to the students or children it's explicitly said no organization or individual may make advantage of religion to obstruct the educational system of the state. So this is a pretext basically for any measures cracking down on the children's religious belief or preventing any institutional effort- even including the government sanctioned churches- to host any children for any access of religious materials would be regarded as an

obstruction of the educational system of the communist socialist state. So this is the number one front in the legal side.

Number two front of this war against the children's faith is in the educational institutions. From September 2019 in Zhejiang Province, all the students had received a so-called survey. They explicitly asked to fill out about their religious faith, especially the Christian faith, and after they disclosed the religious faith and then all the teachers, all their parents, even their school leaders have the obligation - and even invited the public security bureau officers after rounds and rounds of so-called educational effort with the tremendous pressure and coercion - these students have to sign a government Chinese Communist Party-prepared form called "不信教承诺书" ("búxìnjiào chéngnuòshū"). Its literal translation is a "pledge of giving up religion" document. So in one high school we received a report and a document prepared- there were 200 Christian students in that school. After rounds of efforts of threat, pressure, intimidation, and direct coercion by their teachers and the public security officers, all 200 but one student in that high school in Zhejiang were forced to sign that paper.

For the first time since the Cultural Revolution of Chairman Mao in 1960s, Chinese children are forced to renounce their faith in public by the Chinese Communist Party. Otherwise, the teachers will lose their job, the principals will not get a promotion, and certainly this will impact the so-called duty of the public security officers in charge of these educational schools.

And in April 2019, right after the so-called new law took effect in Gongyi city Henan Province, the educational department - the bureau - of that city issued a public directive basically ironically citing the constitution and the new regulation and said the headline of that document is "Why no student should be allowed to believe in any religion." As we know Henan Province is called the Jerusalem of China with the most populous Christian population and all students are required to give up their Christian faith. That means hundreds of thousands in that one province alone.

As we know, even according to the Chinese Communist Party's official account, by 2014 in an annual report on China's religions, the number of Chinese Christians in the official church was reported to over 23 million; these are not including even those Catholic Christians. There are over 1.3 million Chinese Christians under 14

years old. Between 15 (years old) to 24 (years old) there are about 2.1 million. Of course we all know that the number is totally underestimated because they wouldn't count the majority of Chinese Christians in the independent house churches which, according to the Purdue University, might already reach to 80 to 100 million. So just a simple math, even we just say the Chinese government official churches there are over 3.5 million children - Christian or young students - who are under 24 years old. Their faith is totally forbidden.

Number three front is the family. The Chinese Communist Party make religion adaptable or compatible with communism and socialism. They pressure the family members to basically totally forbid their children to have any religious faith, and in all the government-sanctioned church buildings in and around the church pulpit has to install- I mean the Communist Party forced the church to install face recognition cameras in every corner of the church and outside the church, including the church pulpit. And every church corner has a slogan basically called 'the five forbidden policies.' No children under 18 is allowed to enter into the church building. No student, even college student, no communist party member, no communist youth member, no civil servants, no military service member, these are all forbidden categories. So we're talking about hundreds of really millions of children are totally pressured or being prevented from having their religious freedom.

So, in summary, we know that from the reality from both the legal front, to the educational institutional front, to the family front, the Chinese children are being forbidden to even have their basic freedom religious belief, let alone to have the freedom for manifestation, practice the religious faith according to the article 18 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and other international covenants. So the international community should and must confront this. This is a direct violation. Thank you for your attention.

(ANN BUWALDA)- Thank you Mr. Fu for both revealing the truth but also the astonishing level of expungement that the Chinese authorities are attempting to do on the Christian minorities within China.

We now turn to the Uyghur minorities in china. Many of our viewers have likely become aware of China's efforts in again recent years to put pressure on the

Uyghur community and essentially attempt to eradicate the Uyghurs as a distinctive community within China.

Today's speaker focused on the Uyghurs is Peter Irwin. Peter Irwin is a Senior Program Officer for Advocacy and Communications at the Uyghur Human Rights Project. Peter is a Master's of Science graduate of human rights from the London School of Economics and Political Science. There he conducted research on China's engagement at the UN and its relationship to the framing of the Uyghur issue internationally. He is a former Program Manager and Spokesperson for the World Uyghur Congress, where he worked primarily as a UN representative for Geneva-based human rights mechanisms as well as with the national governments and civil society. As the English language spokesperson, he regularly offered commentary to media including Reuters, Foreign Policy, The New York Times, The Guardian, among others, and he's appeared on media outlets such as the BBC World, Al Jazeera, and Reuters TV. He's also written on this topic extensively.

Peter we welcome you today and we ask that you also provide an overview on how the Uyghur community is struggling in China as well, and the heavy-handedness of the Chinese authorities. Thank you Peter.

(PETER IRWIN, SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER, UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT)-

Thank you, thanks a lot Ann and thank you to the Jubilee Campaign for organizing this, as well as the other speakers and people in attendance, as well as our panelists - Bob in particular - for showing us just really broadly speaking of how the Chinese government treats faith generally. As I mentioned my name is Peter Irwin from the Uyghur Human Rights Project.

I wanted to speak briefly about four things about the Uyghur situation. The first is that - giving some context - the region is increasingly a black box. You see this in Tibet as well, it's very difficult to obtain any kind of information. Secondly, I wanted to speak about the rights of Uyghur children, the Chinese government's approach, and their obligation under the Convention to respect and protect those rights. Thirdly, I want to make the case that what was happening to Uyghurs in particular is genocide now; the separation of Uyghur children from their parents is fairly central to this. And then fourthly I wanted to speak about what the UN should be doing; not only that but what they are mandated to do for member states to the UN agencies. I'm not here simply to list off grievances of which of course there are a

lot, but I'm here to illustrate that there are means by which this issue can be tackled within the existing international system. The problem of course is the unwillingness of some states in the UN system itself to tackle those problems which I have a couple ideas for.

First for context, the region as I mentioned is a black box, it's very very difficult to obtain any kind of information. So Uyghur region for example and Tibet as well reporters, journalists for example have been kicked out of China altogether. More recently UN experts have been denied access. We saw just last week really the most recent attempt from journalists to enter the region to simply drive around and take photographs or take video of what's happening- not even to speak to people it's far too dangerous at the moment to speak to anybody in the region- so Channel 4 presenters last week essentially visited; they drove around, they were followed by police, they were hounded by plainclothes police interrogators, they were forced to delete some of their camera footage.

This is essentially the norm since 2018, it's gotten a lot worse because there's been quite a bit more scrutiny of the region, but harassment of reporters and researchers is just that's the context in the environment in which we're speaking. I don't really think there are many places around the world where this is the case anymore. It's important of course for having evidence gathering. What we've seen is that reporters and journalists and others have been sort of pushed into a corner and the only way to obtain evidence is through satellite imagery or analyzing government documents, speaking to people abroad, but the work is still being done.

Within the UN system, China persistently blocks human rights experts from entering the country. They failed to answer requests and reminders from at least 17 UN experts from working groups, including investigations from Cultural Rights on cultural rights, assembly, enforced disappearances expression, privacy, counterterrorism. Some of these requests go back 20 years. So when China tries to frame that participation with the Human Rights Council- for example, when they say that they want to be a member of the Council or a productive member within the UN system, it's just really stretching the truth. They do not in practice cooperate with the UN system. When experts are permitted to enter the country to investigate, many have documented harassment and intimidation, refusal to be granted access to certain regions.

For example, one of the last critical visits in 2017 from Philip Alston, the Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty. China afterwards accused him of overstepping his media and meddling in China's judicial sovereignty, so this is sort of the environment in which we're speaking.

On the rights of Uyghur children, the main issue the primary issue which my colleague at the Uyghur American Association will speak about shortly has been the separation of children from their parents. The RAND Corporation in the U.S. did some research on this using, as I mentioned, satellite imagery is really one of the ways in which journalists and other reporters and researchers have been doing their own research on the region. The satellite imagery simply by finding things like play sets, colored squares in the ground that show them that these were facilities for children- either preschools or other schools where children were taken.

In July they released research showing that there were 55 that were newly built in one county in Hotan, this largely Uyghur area. Many of the facilities had high perimeter defenses, a security-controlled entry point for example, concentrated in the southern regions of the Uyghur area. And they found essentially through the reporting that China, as they were expanding their internment camp system since 2017, these track very closely with the building of boarding schools for children. And what they essentially called an explosive growth in these schools. They were looking at one county for example, and another county in July. You saw many of these schools being built in a six-month period in 2017. It tracks exactly as the internment camp system is being built, where would the children of these internees be going while they're going into these state-run facilities. As they say, these are not merely schools where children attend during the day, but many house the children as well; they're essentially boarding schools through the spectrum of the facilities, but many of them have facilities to house the children at the same time.

The reason of this is because many of them are called double-detained households - which is fairly tragic - but where both parents are have been detained in these detention camps arbitrarily. Many of the children with detained parents are treated differently. They're not sent to the same facilities- for example, as a child you are literally treated differently if your parents are being detained in the camps. They are sort of a so-called higher risk category children that are given sort of, I

would say, special attention I suppose. Grandparents' requests to take the children have been denied.

Hotan - again, going back to the journalists who've been trying to cover these issues - Hotan city's Kindness Kindergarten Program, the Associated Press reporters who tried to go to the facility and take photos and video were surrounded immediately by armed police in order to delete the photos. So this is, again, the context in which we're trying to retrieve information from. But generally speaking, there's been an explosive growth in Uyghur schools for children whose parents are detained.

Thirdly, again contextually, there's a lot going on in the region but what we found in UHRP's position and increasingly the position of the Uyghur community and also people overseas is that what's happening is genocide. For example, a letter that was released last month - it was signed by 35 genocide prevention groups and individual experts - said these measures meet the threshold of acts constitutive of genocide or international crimes under the Genocide Convention. Now, this includes arbitrary detention and internment camps, political indoctrination, forced disappearances, destruction of cultural sites, political indoctrination, disproportionate rates of prison incarceration, and coercive birth prevention campaigns and policies.

On this point in particular, the Chinese government has intended to reduce the birth rate among Uyghurs through involuntary abortions and sterilizations. In 2018, 80 of the IUD placements - all the IUD placements - in China generally were performed on Uyghur women in the Uyghur region despite the region making up less than two percent of the total population. So 80% of all IUD placements were happening in the Uyghur region, many of them of course. But the letter also says the forced separation of Uyghur children from their parents - this has been documented by human rights groups - and one element that constitutes genocide of course is forcibly transferring children from one group to another group. The effect of these policies has been a separation of children from parents. Parents who were detained for years, many now are in forced labor, others are simply jailed, these children of course have nowhere to go. It's a policy of, as some researchers have called, intergenerational separation. Internment camps, of course in some ways they're effective for the parents, but the education system as Bob already mentioned is much more effective in some ways much more effective

means by which children can be turned into obedient Chinese citizens, to remove the cultural identity from the children themselves.

For what the UN should be doing as a system with the number states or agencies for example. I think, again I provide information about why we're limited in the amount of information we're able to glean from the region because there is a necessity for our unit investigation. I think even if one tenth of these reported cases - this information that we're getting - were true, and there's really no reason to believe that any of them don't have a factual basis, they do, the situation would warrant an investigation by the UN. At the very least there needs to be an urgent debate or a special session, and a creation of a UN Commission of Inquiry. You know, we've heard from member states from Western Europe, for example albeit you know there's been a faint response, Canada, the United States, Australia, but not nearly enough.

The Council itself has been responsive to many issues but it should be responsive to this: there must be a UN Commission of Inquiry. There are 9 Commissions of Inquiry ongoing at the moment, for example, and once again the Chinese situation generally speaking warrants one certainly. China is up for a Human Rights Council seat at the moment, they'll be voted on in October. These seats are for states who uphold the highest standards of promotion and protection of rights, and they must be cooperating with the Council. China does not.

Again, I can go down the list of all UN agencies have been mostly unresponsive to this: Secretary General's Office, the Office of Genocide Prevention, increasingly UNESCO because of the destruction of cultural sites. I mean there has been simply no response in the UN. And then going forward maybe we can speak in the question and answer period but we should look towards the Committee on the Rights of the Child which has a review coming up in the next couple years. I'll leave it there, I think I'm just a bit over time, but thank you.

(ANN BUWALDA)- Thank you Peter, we definitely appreciate your input including providing comments in terms of some of the ways that the international community could act. So definitely appreciate that, and again, a reminder to our viewers, if you have questions if you would put those in the chat box at the end of the presentations we would then provide a Q&A time. We have three more speakers.

Our next speaker is Elfidar Iltebir. She's the Secretary of the Uyghur American Association. She was born in Urumqi in the Uyghur region and grew up in Istanbul, Turkey. She has lived in the United States since 2000, she received her B.A. in Marketing from George Mason University and has over 20 years of experience in marketing and project management. During her college years she taught the Uyghur language to U.S. government employees at Inlingua Language Service Center.

As the daughter of a prominent Uyghur writer and journalist, she's been an active member of the Uyghur community and a human rights activist for many years. She has organized many advocacy and Uyghur cultural events in the Washington, D.C. area. She currently works as a structure analyst at an energy firm and is fluent in the English, Uyghur, and Turkish languages. Elfidar we would like you to address at this time this side event and we look forward to your remarks. Thank you for joining us.

(ELFIDAR ILTEBIR, SECRETARY, UYGHUR AMERICAN ASSOCIATION)- Hello, everyone. First I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about Uyghur children. As you know, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that "a child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding." China is a signatory to the Convention but is blatantly violating the entirety of the Convention.

In Uyghur homeland, China has uprooted Uyghur children by the thousands from their families and communities, and stripped them of their ethnicity and religious identity. Without any significant consequence, for years, China has only accelerated its Strike Hard Campaign against Uyghurs and has urged its officials to show no mercy as they detain - by china's admission in its recent white papers - as many as 1.3 million Uyghurs and other minorities per year for involuntary re-education in its thousands of concentration camps surrounded by barbed wire and watchtowers. Yet, instead of demanding China cease flagrantly violating the Convention on the Rights of the Child and even the Genocide Convention, the member states of the United Nations have largely been silenced by China.

China's constant crackdown on Uyghur children's right to religion, like the rights of Tibetan and Falun Gong children, is not something new. Even before China rapidly built concentration camps across the Uyghur homeland, Uyghur children faced severe restrictions on the practice of their faith. Minors were not permitted in mosques, studying the Qur'an and observing Ramadan was forbidden, so Uyghur children were forced to learn about and practice their faith in secret. The failure of the world to hold China accountable for gross violations of religious freedom only encouraged Chairman Xi's regime to greatly increase its persecution of Uyghurs into an actual genocide with thousands of concentration camps in a high-tech-enabled Orwellian mass surveillance police state.

As news of China's concentration camps made it into international headlines in 2017, like so many Uyghurs in the diaspora who were getting news of family members detained in the camps, and as a mother, I worried for the children who were left behind. What was happening to children?

As China took millions of men and women, young and old, starting with students, teachers, scholars, artists, journalists, and doctors, it tore away at the fabric of Uyghur society. Then we heard the children were stolen away too into a world of concentration camps under different labels: state-run kindergartens, boarding schools, and orphanages. These are hundreds of thousands of children separated from their parents by force, taken away from the family environment, away from happiness, love and understanding, and forcefully placed into strange facilities run by a state intent on destroying them, their familial bonds, their language, their religion, their culture, their identity, their world. These children are then re-engineered through deprivation and brutal indoctrination into loyal 'Chinese' subjects of the Chinese Communist Party.

In December 2019, the New York Times reported that nearly half a million Uyghur and ethnic Turkic children had been separated from their families. Nearly a year later, with fresh reports discovering hundreds of new detention facilities and extensive forced labor schemes, I fear that hundreds of thousands more innocent children have joined the stolen generation.

The future of the Uyghur people is at stake. The millions of Uyghur children remaining outside the state-run kindergartens and orphanages are not safe either. Can you imagine the psychological torture of children being subjected not only to a

father's being taken away to a concentration camp, but to a mother being subjected to the intrusion of a Chinese "home stay" official who insists on sleeping in her bed and monitors their reactions from inside their own home? Children are growing up in fear, at home and in daycare and schools, chanting mindless CCP slogans while their parents are forced to do the same in camps and factories.

China intends to strip Uyghurs - children and adults - of their identities to destroy hope, faith and the soul of our people, to destroy the parts of us that make us whole. Our past, our present, and our future are under attack. China's birth control policies in the Uyghur homeland have led to a 60% decrease in the birth rates from 2015 to 2018, according to an Associated Press report. Also, Dr. Adrian Zenz report that Peter mentioned earlier have prompted the U.S. and the U.K. to consider classifying the situation as a genocide and sparked discussion on that issue among researchers and policymakers. But it's every member country of the United Nations that legally obligated themselves by the Genocide Convention to prevent genocidal actions and meaningfully say "Never again."

I implore those who are listening to rise above fear of China's power and not only recognize genocide in the Uyghur homeland while it's happening, but to take immediate action to put a stop to the suffering of the Uyghur people. At the very least, we can separate ourselves from complicity in China's concentration camps - complicity in buying the exported products made by Uyghur forced labor, complicity in selling China the technology it uses for its Orwellian mass surveillance police state, complicity in making China the world's largest manufacturer of phones while Beijing denies millions of Uyghurs the freedom to use phones to communicate with their family abroad.

We can take back the generation China stole from us. We can save the children and reunite them with their families so that one day they will have the opportunity to raise their own children and grandchildren in an atmosphere of happiness, love, and understanding. Every one of us here, if we stand for human rights, if we stand for the right of children to be with their families, to live their faith, their culture, their identity, if we stand against genocide, every one of us has a moral responsibility to take whatever action we can to demand the Chinese Communist Party finally close its concentration camps and stop its state-sponsored forced labor.

(ANN BUWALDA)- Thank you Elfidar for that very very compelling testimony of what you're aware of and the background of what's happening with the Uyghur community, and the absolute appalling, gross, and systematic violations of rights of the Uyghur people perpetrated by the Chinese Communist Party.

It's gut-wrenching as a woman to hear how mothers are so harmed with the deprivation and the removal of their children and some of the stories that you just shared are just absolutely gut-wrenching. Thank you for sharing that and we certainly join with you in decrying these violations and we do want to save the children of all the minorities.

The next minority group that we will be having a speaker talk about are the Falun Gong. Our next speaker is Sean Lin, also a survivor from China. Dr. Lin is a passionate and dedicated human rights activist. He's a survivor from the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre in Beijing. He's an eyewitness of the brutal killing of innocent citizens that the Chinese Communist regime committed on the night of that massacre. Dr. Lin and his wife were detained in China in 2000 for actively engagement in urging China to end the persecution of the Falun Gong practitioners. Fortunately, he and his wife were rescued back to the U.S. to complete his PhD studies due to the kind rescue efforts from mentors, friends, and students from the University of Alabama and Georgia, and we welcome you Sean Lin to explain what is the current situation for Falun Gong practitioners and their children. Thank you for joining us.

(SEAN LIN, PHD., SURVIVOR)- Thank you Ann, thank you for the wonderful introduction and thank you to Jubilee Campaign for inviting me to join this panel. So let me first give a little background about Falun Gong. Falun Gong is an ancient Chinese spiritual discipline in the Buddhist tradition, and it is also commonly known as Falun Dafa. Falun Gong consists of moral teachings and also five sets of meditation exercises. It's very beneficial to improving people's health and energy levels. And at the core of Falun Gong are the values of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance, or in Chinese we call it Zhen (真), Shan (善), and Ren (忍).

Falun Gong teaches that these are the most fundamental qualities of the universe, and takes them to be the guide for daily life and practice. So, in the words of Falun Gong's founder Mr. Li Hongzhi, quote "assimilation to the highest quality of the universe - truthfulness, compassion, tolerance - is the foundation of practice".

So Falun Gong was introduced to the public by Mr. Li in 1992 and became popular in China throughout the 1990s. And because its teachings are rooted in the traditional Chinese culture and resonated deeply with the Chinese people across the country, and it grows tremendously so by 1999 about 70 to 100 million people have taken up the practice.

However, some CCP leaders, in particular, the former CCP General Secretary Jiang Zemin, viewed such a large number of practitioners as a threat, especially since these figures already exceeded over the 60 million membership of the CCP.

In addition, Communism always aims to control all aspects of the public and private lives of its citizens, including religion and spirituality. And we have heard many testimonies today from other religious minority groups. So in China, churches, temples, even health practices are allowed to operate only under the control of CCP, but Falun Gong operates independently of the communist thought and control. So the vast difference between Falun Gong's tenets and the CCP's ideology - which is officially atheist and Marxist - was another factor the CCP could not tolerate Falun Gong. They also feel that Falun Gong's strong moral code undermined the Party's violent, Leninist tactics for controlling society.

So on July 20, 1999, the CCP launched the nationwide brutal crackdown against Falun Gong. It has become one of the largest human rights atrocities in the 21st century and has lasted more than 21 years now.

Under the systematic crackdown in mainland China, countless children of Falun Gong have lost their parents, academics, freedom, even all their living conditions and dignity just because their parents' or their own belief in and pursuit of Falun Gong. These poor children are like broken-winged angels who have been ravaged by the black hands of the CCP and been deprived of their gorgeous life. So they are struggling to survive under the cold rain and live a life of fear, cold, starvation, and bullying.

This happened frequently. And we also need to understand this happens in a nationwide scale and the CCP has its affiliate organization to brainwash, also control, this youth population. This organization is called the Chinese Communist Youth League. So this Youth League consists about 3 million base branches and more than 60 million members. Since the persecution started, the CCP has been

indoctrinating lies and hatred into people's minds. And, of course, for young people they are easy targets for brainwashing. The CCP has incited the young students who are unclear about the truth of Falun Gong to participate in the movement against Falun Gong. The Youth League Central Committee issued two documents namely, first one is "Notice on Not Allowing the Youth League Members to Practice Falun Dafa" and the second one is "Notice on Implementing the Gist from Central Governments: Thoroughly Carrying out Study and Education Movements among Youth League Members" to fight against Falun Gong.

So these national policies, as you know, implemented nationwide, and so this is Chinese government solution and nationwide anti-cult movement against the Falun Gong groups. So they labeled Falun Gong as a cult to justify their persecution. Because the engagement of this Youth League, the persecution of the Falun Gong practitioners youth community was very systematic, carried out in the school systems. On the website of mingui.org Falun Gong groups in the United States have documented the persecution of hundreds of adolescents or children of Falun Gong practitioners. Their suffering includes being threatened to confess, also forced to drop out of school, giving up their beliefs, losing parents, becoming orphans, or being beaten, imprisoned, or sentenced to labor camps, or being sexually assaulted or raped, and becoming depressed or insane, or even losing their lives.

It's full-blown persecution, and all these records with specific names and addresses happened in every province of China, clearly indicating that this is a consistent pattern of systematic policy and tactics to force these children to give up their Falun Gong belief or turn them into victims due to their parents' belief.

So as some individual case I will go through at the end but if I go through these cases just to save time I want to first mention that it's very painstakingly to go through these reports of adolescents or children of Falun Gong that's being persecuted, and it's even more saddening that international society have been very weak or even silenced on condemning the CCP on this huge human rights atrocity that happened to the Falun Gong practitioners. And in 2019, the Independent China Tribunal has reached final judgment that forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale, and that Falun Gong practitioners has been one and probably the main source of

organ supplies. Of course, the Uyghur group is also subjected to this organ harvesting.

So this final judgment has been presented to the United Nations in September 2019; however, one year has passed and the UN has not taken any actions to respond to this judgment. Needless to say, there was no action taken to condemn the CCP on this or even further investigation. But what is more ironic and shameful is that the Human Rights Council has included a Chinese diplomat Jiang Duan to be a member of the UN Consultative Committee. This is not a UN body sleepwalking into accomplice with the CCP. This is actively engaging the CCP to help the CCP cover up its crimes.

So I hope on today's event with the focus on the suffering of children of faith in China will help the UN bodies and officers to do a deep soul searching: what if these tragedies happened to your own kids? The world needs to understand the CCP is the devil that aims to destroy human race as its ultimate goal. It's a total gangster organized crime group that kept 1.4 billion Chinese people as hostages and slaves. It has been useless to engage dialogue with the CCP regarding respecting its own constitution or even international norms or covenants.

So I'd like to encourage all human rights group and activists to express support for a new bill that has been introduced by U.S. Representative Scott Perry to designate the CCP as a transnational organized crime group. If the international societies do not take resolute actions against the CCP, all the tragedies we hear today will keep happening.

(ANN BUWALDA)- Thank you Sean Lin for that presentation and overview both of what's happening with the Falun Gong community and especially what's been happening to the children and the deprivation of religious freedom for the children to undertake their practices as Falun Gong members.

Our next speaker is going to be featuring for us the situation for the minorities in the Tibet region and area of China. Kai Müller is the Executive Director of the International Campaign for Tibet. Before joining the International Campaign for Tibet in 2005 as executive director, in Germany Kai Müller served on the board of Amnesty International Germany and worked as a Research Associate in the

German parliament. He heads the Berlin office of ICT. Since 2015 he also coordinates ICT's United Nations initiatives.

He has given briefings at the Commission on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the CRC), the Committee against Torture (CAT), Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and at the UN Human Rights Council. ICT is a member of the FIDH (Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de L'homme/International Federation for Human Rights) and of the governing body of German Institute of Human Rights, Germany's national human rights institute. ICT is also a member of the NGO Committee on the Freedom of Religion or Belief, which is based in Geneva. Mr. Müller, we welcome you today to provide to us what the situation for those in Tibet part in part of China. Thank you.

(KAI MÜLLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET)-

Thank you very much and I'd like to thank the Jubilee Campaign for organizing this very important panel discussion on the side of the Human Rights Council session. I would like to make three points generally. One, I'd like to give a little bit of context. Secondly I'd like to refer to some specific issues, and certainly I would like to give some recommendations from our point of view what can be done by the international community.

My Uyghur colleagues have already pointed out the similarities between the Tibetans and Uyghurs in some respect. And it is also nothing new also for Tibetans to experience repression in terms of their right to freedom of religion or belief. Nevertheless, we have been monitoring a downward trend over the past years ever since Xi Jinping took over leadership of the People's Republic of China in terms of the Tibetans. We have been monitoring a more assertive program to continue a policy of absolute control and assimilation which, of course, also has its impact on the freedom of religion. For example, Xi Jinping just recently during a very important Party conference, the so-called Seventh Work Forum of the Communist Party on Tibet laid out a "strategy" of governing Tibet in the new era that includes sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism and improving the ability of Chinese communist party organizations and members at all levels "to deal with major struggles and prevent major risks." There was also a considerable emphasis on ensuring national security and ethnic solidarity, which certainly shows how much of politicization and ideology is involved when it comes to culture and religion in Tibet.

Concretely, this means for Tibetan Buddhism- as this important meeting pointed out- Tibetan Buddhism should hence be guided in adapting to socialist society, and should be developed in the Chinese context. And if you look, for example, at what this means for monasteries of Tibetan Buddhism, you will see that this means surveillance, Party presence, and also up to the changing of the Buddhist curricula that is being used to educate young monks and nuns.

Sinicization in this context is of utter importance for us to understand as one of the central concepts here. It generally refers to assimilating ethnic minority communities within territories under Beijing's governance into Chinese cultural and political systems as defined by the Party, which frequently describes its broad objective as socialism with Chinese characteristics. In terms of religion, sinicization involves ensuring that spiritual beliefs and teachings conform with the CCP's principles and objectives. For example, already in 2015, as many of you know, he spoke about sinicizing Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam, Taoism/Daoism, as well as Buddhism. And in 2016 he repeated, he underlined the CCP leadership vis-a-vis religious groups who, I quote, "must adhere to the leadership of the CCP and support the socialist system and socialism with Chinese characteristics." This means, we as an organization, consider this being an aggressive new approach to assimilate Tibetan culture, Tibetan Buddhism, and in the end, to also eradicate Tibetan culture.

In terms of examples against this background I would like to just briefly refer to three. One of which is recent news which, many of you may have noted a research presented by a researcher Adrian Zenz. It's been mentioned here before, about an apparent coercive work labor program that is being implemented for at least two years now in 2019-2020 in the Tibet Autonomous Region which led 500,000 Tibetans - more than 500 thousand as he documented - forcefully into such labor programs, which also is not just a human rights violation to these affected and concerned affected individuals, but also for the families, also for the children, as Zenz found out that affected families are from rural areas and we can imagine that we talk about fathers and mothers who are being taken away or forced into such programs, being taken away from their children, which is quite drastic. Here we see a certain what we call feedback loop between Xinjiang and Tibet programs that have been developed, tested, and tried in Xinjiang, being transferred back to Tibet, a truly troublesome development. Secondly, with regard to Tibetan school

children, we have been monitoring on a regular basis bans on religious activities for such schoolchildren.

For example in 2018, rarely so, but they do report it, Chinese state media reported that underage students in the Tibet Autonomous Region must not take part in religious activities during their summer vacation according to school regulations. The Global Times, the state-run newspaper, said that notices have been sent to both students and their parents while authorities have had students sign an agreement that they will not take part in any form of religious activity during the summer vacation, and so forth. While we do not know what kind of punishment waits for those who do not comply with such regulations, but on a regular basis we hear of such bans for schoolchildren, which of course is against international norms.

And certainly here we have been monitoring cases where young Tibetan monks have been forced out of monastery schools into government run schools as a part of a drive to replace monastic education with political propaganda in state-run schools in Tibet. According to our information, Tibetan monks were compelled to leave one of the biggest monasteries in 2018 in the eastern area of Tibet in such a drive, and also parents and young monks and nuns were threatened with punishment in case they would return to that school. One should note and take into consideration, traditionally Tibetan monks entered monasteries which are important centers of culture and education as novices at a young age. While Communist Party work teams first began preventing young monks from joining monasteries in the mid 90s, the level of enforcement has varied from monastery to monastery. According to our information, the effort in eastern Tibet in 2018 stands for the authorities' effort to compel young monks to join government-run secular schools as it is happening in other Tibetan areas including in the province of Qinghai.

A former monk from Labrang Monastery in Amdo in eastern Tibet who is now in exile told us, I quote, "In Tibet monasteries, young monks are raised to be protectors of their own culture and Buddhist values from a young age, and then when they grow up they pass on their education to young monks so it goes full circle. I learned from older monks at my monastery, and when I was in my early 30s I then taught the young monks not only about the scriptures and studying, but

also how to do their homework." So here we see a force, really a fundamental impact, on the roots of Tibetan culture that start at young age.

With regard to the time, I would like to just support what my colleague Peter Irwin mentioned with regard to the Human Rights Council. We are also calling for a special mechanism at Human Rights Council towards China which would hopefully focus particularly on freedom of religion or belief, which must be addressed in a more assertive manner by the international community and we hope that the situation of Tibetan children and their rights is duly noted and duly raised in such proceedings. Thank you.

(ANN BUWALDA)- Thank you Kai Müller for that excellent overview of the situation for Tibetan Buddhists and particular areas where Tibetans are located in China. We are running out of time and we wanted to highlight the fact that the international community needs to take action and counter China's false narratives that it is in compliance with its international human rights obligations.

We have heard today clearly that China has derogated its international human rights conventions that it signed onto, its other obligations within the international framework. We must as an international community continue to hold China accountable for the atrocities. I mentioned earlier that clearly the evidence shows that China has been engaging in gross and systematic abuses. It has been engaging in genocide, as we heard from our speakers, related to the Uyghurs; it has been engaging in efforts that clearly are in violation of human rights standards and we call upon the international community to prevent China's acceptance of its narrative and instead to review and to recount all these communities that have been suffering.

Our particular focus has been the children, the children who have been deprived of their faith, and what we've heard today, they've also been deprived of even spending time with their parents which is anathema to anything human and we must stand up to China and prevent China from continuing to in the UN context claim that it's adhering to human rights when it's not.

So, again, I apologize that we will not take time for questioning for Q&A due to the fact we're now out of time, that we've run our 90 minutes for this program, but we do ask that we continue engagement on this topic. There have been a number of

speakers who have provided specific ways that the international community can act. Jubilee Campaign intends to circulate those recommendations to missions within Geneva as well as New York and other contexts, and we encourage every organization that has participated today to do likewise. Please reach out to mission contacts, please reach out to others within the UN context, that we can expose China and that we can call China to account for its human rights violations as it relates to children and specifically on the topic of freedom of religion and belief. Again, thank you all for participating in the side event today of the UN Human Rights Council. We appreciate your time and we appreciate your participation. Thank you all.