**Grant Every Child Every Right in China**

*Two Years Late: A Review of China's violations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child - focusing on religious and ethnic minority children*

*A United Nations Human Rights Council parallel event*

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**Speakers**

- Ann Buwalda, Moderator (Executive Director, Jubilee Campaign)
- Hon. Nury Turkel (Commissioner, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom)
- Bob Fu (Founder & President, ChinaAid)
- Esther (Witness)
- Cindy (Witness)
- Kalbinur (Witness)
- Arfat (Witness)

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**Objectives**

The objective of this parallel event was to highlight the ways in which the Chinese government is increasing persecution and violations of the rights of children to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

2 March 2021 marked the 29th anniversary of China’s ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Additionally, on 31 March, China will be two years late in submitting its State Party report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Article 14 of the CRC guarantees every child the right to freedom of religion. However, in practice, the Chinese government violates this right, especially with regards to Uyghur, Christian, Tibetan Buddhist, and Falun Gong children.

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**Key Messages**

- The Chinese government has embarked on a campaign to forcibly assimilate and suppress the religious, spiritual, linguistic, and cultural traditions of its minorities.
- Children bear the brunt of this persecution, as they are banned from entering houses of worship and rebuked for their beliefs.
- Children of faith whose parents are arrested and imprisoned for their beliefs face tremendous emotional turmoil, psychological distress, and negative effects on childhood and affective development.
- Teachers from faith backgrounds are forced to promise that they will not share or teach religious ideas to their students, lest they be surveilled, detained, and interrogated.
- Attacks on a child’s religious and spiritual beliefs can often coincide with a deterioration of religious, linguistic, cultural, and family identity - especially in the case of ethno-religious minority children.

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**Recommendations**

- Take a multilateral and unified approach to condemn China’s human rights and religious freedom violations.
- Make it too costly for China to continue violating human rights and essential freedoms; to do this, nations should (1) impose economic sanctions and (2) disengage from trade with China if China does not take measurable steps to improve its record.
- Mobilize Islamic countries to stand with Uyghur and Turkic minorities in China - including children - who are subjected to genocidal practices.
- Counter China’s influence at the UN Human Rights Council.