



Jubilee Campaign Submits Five Written Statements to the United Nations Human Rights Council

PRESS RELEASE (02.01.2021)

On February 1st, Jubilee Campaign submitted multiple written statements on religious freedom and human rights issues to the United Nations Human Rights Council 46th Session. Jubilee Campaign has for years strived to be a vital voice for those suffering in silence around the world, and we thank you, our supporters, for giving us the platform to raise these issues in our domestic and international advocacy. Please continue reading to see the main points of our written statements to the 46th Session:

China Violates the CRC by Persecuting Children of Faith

Jubilee Campaign raised the religious persecution of China's faithful, their youngest rights holders - children. For Uyghur and other Turkic Muslim children, Xinjiang legislation prohibits the most essential expression of cultural and religious identity: taking part in Ramadan, wearing religious clothing and headscarves, reading the Qur'an, and attending worship services, is strictly forbidden. In Chinese provinces where there are robust Christian populations, signs have been erected on church doors prohibiting the entry of minors under the age of 18; similarly, teachers and parents have been forced to sign pledges that they will disallow their children from taking part in Christian and religious activities. Tibetan Buddhist children have seen an overwhelming crackdown - and even erasure - of their linguistic, cultural, and religious heritage, as they are forbidden from being educated in monasteries. And children of Falun Gong practitioners are harassed, bullied, and humiliated for their parents' and their own spiritual beliefs.



[Read the full written statement](#)

China Engages in Genocide Against Uyghur and Turkic Minorities



In mid-January 2021, United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo officially declared that China - specifically, the Chinese Communist Party - is waging genocide against Uyghur and other Turkic Muslim minorities in Xinjiang. Such a designation is evidenced by the numerous reports and survivor testimonies of surveillance predictive policing, arbitrary and prolonged detention, physical torture, political

indoctrination, forced abortion and sterilization, among many other genocidal acts. Concurrently, debates persist in the United Kingdom regarding whether to add a Genocide Amendment to the UK Trade Bill, which would nullify agreements with nations found to be engaging in genocide. Uyghur diaspora communities not only in the UK, but also in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, are advocating for the governments to take a stronger stance on China's genocide against Uyghurs. Jubilee Campaign echoes these calls in its written statement, and calls on more UN Member States to make similar genocide determinations. (photo by Keith Tan on Flickr; license CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

[Read the full written statement](#)

The Human Rights Council Must Work to Stop Abductions and Forced Conversions of Religious Minority Girls

In a written statement to the UN HRC, Jubilee Campaign raises the concerning trend in numerous nations in which religious minority girls are kidnapped, forcibly converted to the majority religion, and sometimes even forced to marry their captors. Such is a common occurrence in Pakistan, Egypt, and Nigeria. In Pakistan in late 2020, 13-year-old Catholic girl Arzoo was kidnapped by, converted to Islam, and married to her family's 40-year-old Muslim neighbor. In Egypt, according to reports by Coptic Solidarity, 500 cases have been reported in the past decade in which Coptic women and girls have been abducted and forcibly converted by means that could amount to human trafficking. In Nigeria, 17-year-old Sadiya, the daughter of two Christian parents, was kidnapped and forcibly converted to Islam. Jubilee Campaign raises the vulnerabilities these girls face, not only as gender minorities, but also as religious minorities in nations where law and jurisprudence favor the majority religion, of which the majority of perpetrators belong to.



[Read the full written statement](#)

The Human Rights Council Must Establish a Commission of Inquiry into Crimes Against Humanity in Nigeria



In another written statement, Jubilee Campaign highlights the reasons why the Human Rights Council, as a leading mechanism of the United Nations, has the responsibility to call for an investigation into crimes against humanity in Nigeria. One of the main concerning trends: violence against women and girls. Women and girls account for a large portion of victims of Islamist jihadist group Boko Haram, who routinely conducts mass abductions. Between

February and April of 2019, 400 Adara Christian individuals, mostly women, were killed in Fulani militant violence. Another concerning trends: violence against religious communities. The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings reported that in 2019, the violence involving radical Fulani militants and Christian farmers has become six time deadlier than the Boko Haram insurgency. Nigerian NGO Intersociety predicts that 11,500 Nigerian Christians lives have been taken as a result of Fulani militant and Boko haram violence since 2015.

[Read the full written statement](#)

The Human Rights Council Must Ensure that there is No Penalty for Apostasy

Jubilee Campaign in another written statement calls on UN Member States that have codified apostasy (anti-religious conversion) legislation to repeal such discriminatory laws. In Mauritania, according to the 1983 Penal Code, any Muslim who commits apostasy and does not repent within



three days faces the death penalty for his or her 'crime' of renunciation of or conversion away from Islam. In July 2019, Mauritanian blogger Mohamed Cheikh Ould Mkhaitir was acquitted of his apostasy charge and death sentence after spending five years in prison for writing an article questioning the use of religion to discriminate against certain communities. In Iran, though the penal code does not criminalize apostasy, courts are permitted to make decisions in line with Sharia law, which *does* prohibit apostasy. In 2010, Christian convert and pastor Youcef Nadarkhani was convicted of apostasy and sentenced to death. His charges were dropped only after much advocacy from the international religious freedom community.

[Read the full written statement](#)

There is no shortage of situations in which people's religious freedoms and other inalienable human rights are violated. Jubilee Campaign will continue to raise the stories of suffering and survival in upcoming Human Rights Council Sessions.

To view Jubilee Campaign's written statements and other UN advocacy initiatives, please visit our website by clicking the button below:

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