



*Committee Guide for the  
United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)  
The Treatment of the Uighur People of China*

# Stockholm International School

## Model United Nations

January 30 - February 1, 2020

<b>A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A LETTER FROM THE HEAD CHAIR OF UNHRC</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>COMMITTEE DYNAMICS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>RELEVANT UN ACTIONS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>MUN TERMINOLOGY</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>8</b>

**A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I invite and welcome you to Stockholm International School Model United Nations 2020. This year I have the privilege of leading SISMUN as our Secretary General and it is with honour that I present this year's conference.

It is a great honor to be this year's Secretary-General, and welcome you to the Stockholm International School Model United Nations 2020.

This year's conference's theme is "Threats to Global Security" due to the fact that there are numerous challenges that our world is currently facing today. Global security entails many aspects that not only relate to the physical and emotional security of people, but also includes the security of our environment and institutions.

I am excited to see such a wide range of debates and hope that you will experience and gain a lot of memories, and experience from debating.

Yours faithfully,

Thabang Radebe  
Secretary-General, SISMUN 2020

## **A LETTER FROM THE HEAD CHAIR OF UNHRC**

Dear Delegates,

I wish you a warm welcome to SISMUN! The UNHRC was formed in 2006 to promote and protect human rights around the world. The UNHRC has the unique ability to address human rights violations and provide recommendations and possible solutions. In 2007, the UNHRC set its “Institution-Building Package” in place to set guidelines for the procedure of reviewing human rights globally. These guidelines follow three key concepts; The Universal Periodic Review, which reviews all Member States of the United Nations, The Advisory Committee, which brainstorms possible solutions and recommendations to thematic Human Rights issues, and the Complaint Procedure, which allows individuals or organizations to bring specific Human Rights issues before the council.

This year, the issue that the UNHRC will be addressing is the treatment of the Uighur People of the Xinjiang district in China. This issue sparked media interest from a New York Times investigative article surrounding one of the biggest governmental leaks in the Chinese Communist party in decades. It contains a detailed review of 403 pages of internal dialogue on the treatment of the Uighur people. This issue falls under the Advisory Committee, as it is a thematic issue of religious discrimination.

As delegates of the UNHRC, your task is to find efficiently discuss and provide realistic resolutions to the issue of the treatment of the Uighur people. This is a complex issue that has divided the UNHRC and will be challenging due to conflicting views. However, I truly believe that through diplomatic dialogue, cooperation and perseverance, you will be able to produce realistic and exceptional resolutions.

I can genuinely say that I am thrilled to chair UNHRC and hear each delegates valuable contributions and insight on this issue as well as the remarkable resolutions that I am sure you will construct as a whole!

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Hunter,  
Head Chair UNHRC

## **INTRODUCTION**

The issue of the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities has reached its peak in China over the summer of 2019, when the New York Times released leaked, official Chinese documents containing plans for containing ethnic minorities, primarily the Uighur people, in Detention camps in the Xinjiang region in North-Western China. The report published by the New York Times also contained the names of key diplomats involved and disturbingly precise procedures of how to inform people of where their family members have gone. The issue has divided the UNHRC as some 37 nations have sided with China and support its attempt to prevent religious or terrorist extremism through their “re-education camps”. China support lies in Countries such as Belarus, Pakistan, Bolivia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Russia. On the other hand, Western countries such as the U.K., the U.S., Sweden, France and Germany, have all persistently requested the UN to investigate the “re-education camps”.

## **COMMITTEE DYNAMICS**

As a delegate of SISMUN 2019, you will be responsible for representing a particular country in one of our committees. You are playing the role of that country’s representative in a UN committee. You will do this by researching the country’s views on the topic at hand and coming up with solutions complying to the view of the country. If you have not done any research you will have little to contribute within committee sessions. Therefore, it is recommended to take it upon yourself to prepare yourself for the conference in order to make it more enjoyable for yourself and others in your committee. When in committee, it is important that you respect and listen to your fellow delegates and Chairs.

## **HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for

strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251. Its first session took place from 19 to 30 June 2006. One year later, the Council adopted its "Institution-building package" to guide its work and set up its procedures and mechanisms.

Among them were the Universal Periodic Review mechanism which serves to assess the human rights situations in all United Nations Member States, the Advisory Committee which serves as the Council’s “think tank” providing it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues and the Complaint Procedure which allows individuals and organizations to bring human rights violations to the attention of the Council.

The Human Rights Council also works with the UN Special Procedures established by the former Commission on Human Rights and now assumed by the Council. These are made up of special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups that monitor, examine, advise and publicly report on thematic issues or human rights situations in specific countries.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Human rights abuses in China are currently worsening in all directions, but moreover one of freedom of religion. In the western region of Xinjiang, Uighurs, a small Muslim ethnic minority majority found there, are being imprisoned into what the Chinese government calls “re-education centres”, but what the New York Times refers to as “indoctrination camps”. The Chinese government claims that the purpose of these camps is to eradicate religious extremism and terrorism. Additionally, they claim that those in the camps enter voluntarily, which the few Uighurs refugees that do make it out of this detention, testify against. They are held there without any trial, and held indefinitely, without any time constraints placed.

Mihrigul Tursun, a Uighur, who was held in these detention camps, claims that they killed one of her sons, a young boy called Mohaned. Unfortunately, this is not the only horror? story that has come out of the camps, with many more victims that have escaped coming forward, claiming that the conditions are beyond inhumane. Although many governments have condemned this practice, no concrete action has been taken by any country to stop these human rights violations. Furthermore, this recently appearing phenomenon in China has spawned a refugee crisis, with many fleeing to developed nations like Sweden.

## **HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM**

The appearance of the so-called “Vocational Education and Training centres” were initiated by a Chinese campaign called “The People’s War On Terror” declared in 2014, as a response to the resurgence of protests and riots in Xinjiang by the Uighurs who strongly disagreed with the current governing party, the Communist Party of China. In July, 2019, the Urumqi riots took place, these were a series of extremely violent riots took place in the region’s capital. Hundreds of protestors were

detained and arrested, and some even face the death penalty for their actions those faithful days.

The reasons leading to this major protest was rooted in the actions of the government during the time. Multiple Uighurs have claimed that all jobs presented in the highly-restricted province go to the Han-chinese, the major ethnic group in China. Additionally, the Uighurs cultural, political and religious activities have been limited through multiple policies, and passports have been confiscated without any official reason stated. These were some of the leading factors that helped spark disgust towards the government, resulting in the riots that killed many Uighurs.

Post-riots, the camps started to appear which imprisoned anybody that committed a misdemeanour, stemming from posting a pro-Uighur idea on social media, to simply being related to a Uighur who is travelling internationally, an array of actions qualify as misdemeanours in the eyes of the Chinese government. According to one Uighur man’s testament, when he finally got released from the camps due to the intervention of a relative, any time he enters a public space, like malls and hospitals, his face will be identified by cameras and he will be detained by police, risking re-entering the camps. The advice of an agent, stay home. This series of events being catalysed from his travels outside of China, suggest that solely travelling internationally as a Uighur can risk your livelihood. At the present moment, about 800 000 Uighurs are estimated to be trapped in these camps.

## **RELEVANT UN ACTIONS**

The issue of the treatment of the Uighur People of China, has divided the UN. Countries such as Belarus, Russia,

Pakistan, Serbia, Egypt, and Bolivia are applauding Beijing on its actions on preventing religious extremism and terrorism. This contrasts with the views of 23 states, including; The US, UK, Germany, France, The Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, that are asking China to refrain from holding Uighur people in arbitrary detention and to implement recommendations by independent UN human rights experts. This request was voiced on 23rd of October, year? by the British UNHRC representative, Karen Pierce. China's justification for its actions are that the "vocational education and training centres" are a part of a spurge of preventative measures against extremism and terrorism.

### CURRENT SITUATION

Currently, the camps are continuing to be active and China still denies that people are being kept in detention camps. On October 11th, 2019, The U.S. placed sanctions upon the Chinese government and business groups that have been enabling the re-education camps and the campaign to eradicate religious and ethnic minorities, specifically the Uighur people of the Xinjiang district. Moreover, some Chinese officials that are actively partaking in this campaign have been blocked from receiving visas to enter the U.S. On December 3rd 2019, the US House of Representatives passed the UIGHUR act, which enforces export control to ensure that U.S. technology would not be supplied to Chinese technological companies that boost China's total surveillance capabilities on its general public.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The Sydney Morning Herald on Riots in Xinjiang;

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/three-die-during-riots-in-chinas-xinjiang-region-state-media-20090706-d9dz.html>

The New York Times; on procedure and condition within camps:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/09/world/asia/china-xinjiang-muslim-detention.html>

The New York Times; review of leaked documents from Chinese Government officials on the Uighur people.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang-documents.html>

### MUN TERMINOLOGY

**Delegate:** A person representing a particular country during committee sessions.

**Best Delegate:** An award for delegates that participated particularly well.

**Chair:** A person or persons leading committee sessions.

**Dais:** A selection of above average talented individuals that lead committee sessions.

**Clause:** A single solution of the greater solution (resolution) to the topic.

**Resolution:** A collection of clauses that create a solution for the topic.

**Signatory:** A delegate that supports another delegate's clause and wants it discussed.

**Placard:** A rectangular piece of paper with a country's name.

**Opening Speech:** An opportunity for delegates to present their country's ideas.

**Quorum:** The number of votes needed to pass a clause or resolution - 2/3 votes for.

**Decorum:** The Latin word for "grace". If a chair says "decorum", they want the delegates to be quiet.

**Amendment:** a change or addition designed to improve the clause passed

### PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY

The following components of SISMUN are in the order of which they will play out.

1. Roll Call - Time to take attendance

- a. At the beginning of each session your chairs will conduct roll call. During roll call each delegate's name will be called and you are expected to reply with either "Present" or "Present and voting".
2. Opening Speeches - Time to share views and ideas
  - a. The delegation leader of each country will hold a maximum of one minute long speech introduce your country's position on the topic at hand.
3. Moderated Caucus I (Formal Debate) - Time to speak under official time
  - a. During a moderated caucus delegates that wish to speak on a topic may do so by raising their placards when the chair asks for speakers.
  - b. Delegates that are called on can speak for up to 60 seconds. There will be two questions of 30 seconds and two answers of 30 seconds per speaker.
  - c. There will be two moderated caucuses during the conference.
  - d. In Moderated Caucus (I) the points brought up during the opening speeches or other points regarding solutions to the topic will be discussed.
4. Unmoderated Caucus (Informal Debate) - Time to speak freely
  - a. During unmoderated caucus delegates will talk to other delegates and write clauses (solutions) for the topic.
  - b. Each clause requires one signatory (supporter) to be acknowledged.
  - c. When a clause is finished the delegates will send the clause to the Dais to be edited and for later projection onto the board. Only clauses sent during unmoderated caucus will be discussed during the final moderated caucus.
5. Moderated Caucus II (Formal Debate)
  - a. In Moderated Caucus (II) clauses will be presented, discussed and voted upon.
  - b. When clauses are presented, delegates can choose to speak for or against a clause.
  - c. When the committee moves into voting procedure, delegates vote on the clause being discussed.
  - d. During voting procedure delegates can do one of the following actions:
    - i. Vote for: The delegation agrees with the clause or resolution.
    - ii. Vote against: The delegation disagrees with the clause or resolution.
    - iii. Abstain from voting: The delegation neither agrees nor disagrees with the clause or resolution.
6. Voting Procedure - Time to vote on the proposed resolutions
  - a. When the committee moves into voting procedure, delegates vote on the resolution as a whole after having voted for each individual clause.
  - b. During voting procedure delegates can do one of the following actions:
    - i. Vote for: The delegation agrees with the clause or resolution.
    - ii. Vote against: The delegation disagrees with the clause or resolution.
    - iii. Abstain from voting: The delegation neither agrees nor disagrees with the clause or resolution.



**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

“China's Hidden Camps.” BBC News, BBC, [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/China\\_hidden\\_camps](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/China_hidden_camps).

Buckley, Chris, and Steven Lee Myers. “China Said It Closed Muslim Detention Camps. There's Reason to Doubt That.” *The New York Times*, *The New York Times*, 9 Aug. 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/09/world/asia/china-xinjiang-muslim-detention.html>.

Watson, Ivan, and Ben Westcott. “Uyghur Refugee Tells of Death and Fear inside China's Xinjiang Camps.” CNN, Cable News Network, 21 Jan. 2019, <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/01/18/asia/uyghur-china-detention-center-intl/index.html>.

Correspondent, Special. “A Summer Vacation in China's Muslim Gulag.” *Foreign Policy*, 28 Feb. 2018, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/02/28/a-summer-vacation-in-chinas-muslim-gulag/>.

Stewart, Phil. “China Putting Minority Muslims in 'Concentration Camps,' U.S. Says.” *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 4 May 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-concentrationcamps/china-putting-minority-muslims-in-concentration-camps-us-says-idUSKCN1S925K>.

Rappeport, Alan, and Edward Wong. “In Push for Trade Deal, Trump Administration Shelves Sanctions Over China's Crackdown on Uighurs.” *The New York Times*, *The New York Times*, 4 May 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/04/world/asia/trump-china-uighurs-trade-deal.html>.

Giordano, Chiara. “China Claims Muslims Detention Camps Are Just 'Boarding Schools.'” *The Independent*, *Independent Digital News and Media*, 13 Mar. 2019,

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/china-concentration-camps-xinjiang-uighur-muslims-boarding-schools-a8820096.html>.

“China Changes Law to Recognise 'Re-Education Camps' in Xinjiang.” *South China Morning Post*, 13 Oct. 2018, <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/2167893/china-legalises-use-re-education-camps-religious-extremists>.

Cronin-Furman, Kate. “China Has Chosen Cultural Genocide in Xinjiang-For Now.” *Foreign Policy*, 19 Sept. 2018, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/09/19/china-has-chosen-cultural-genocide-in-xinjiang-for-now/>.

Board, Editorial. “Opinion | Finally, Some Consequences for China's Concentration Camps.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 10 Oct. 2019, [www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/finally-some-consequences-for-chinas-concentration-camps/2019/10/10/0c3e99co-eado-11e9-9c6d-436a0df4f31d\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/finally-some-consequences-for-chinas-concentration-camps/2019/10/10/0c3e99co-eado-11e9-9c6d-436a0df4f31d_story.html).

Deutsche Welle. “UN Members Divided over China's Treatment of Uighur Minority: DW: 30.10.2019.” *DW.COM*, 30 Oct. 2019, [www.dw.com/en/un-members-divided-over-chinas-treatment-of-uighur-minority/a-51046710](https://www.dw.com/en/un-members-divided-over-chinas-treatment-of-uighur-minority/a-51046710).

Garside, Juliette, and Emma Graham-Harrison. “UK Calls for UN Access to Chinese Detention Camps in Xinjiang.” *The Guardian*, *Guardian News and Media*, 25 Nov. 2019, [www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/25/uk-calls-for-un-access-chinese-detention-camps-xinjiang](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/25/uk-calls-for-un-access-chinese-detention-camps-xinjiang).

Hoja, Gulchehra. “Uighur Journalist Gulchehra Hoja on Exposing China's Detention Camps.”

*Subscribe to Read | Financial Times*, Financial Times, 5 Dec. 2019, [www.ft.com/content/7ed40e3c-1624-11ea-9ee4-11f260415385](http://www.ft.com/content/7ed40e3c-1624-11ea-9ee4-11f260415385).

Ibrahim, Azeem. "China Must Answer for Cultural Genocide in Court." *Foreign Policy*, 3 Dec. 2019, [foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/03/uighurs-xinjiang-china-cultural-genocide-international-criminal-court/](http://foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/03/uighurs-xinjiang-china-cultural-genocide-international-criminal-court/).

Lederer, Edith M. "China and West Clash over Claims Beijing Oppresses Uighurs." *AP NEWS*, Associated Press, 30 Oct. 2019, [apnews.com/68f22c01a6fd47b7ba3443ca4295f233](http://apnews.com/68f22c01a6fd47b7ba3443ca4295f233).

Putz, Catherine. "Which Countries Are For or Against China's Xinjiang Policies?" – *The Diplomat*, For The Diplomat, 22 July 2019, [thediplomat.com/2019/07/which-countries-are-for-or-against-chinas-xinjiang-policies/](http://thediplomat.com/2019/07/which-countries-are-for-or-against-chinas-xinjiang-policies/).

Ramzy, Austin, and Chris Buckley. "‘Absolutely No Mercy’: Leaked Files Expose How China Organized Mass Detentions of Muslims." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 16 Nov. 2019, [www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang-documents.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang-documents.html).

Tiezzi, Shannon. "Rival Camps Clash Over Xinjiang at UN Committee Session." – *The Diplomat*, For The Diplomat, 31 Oct. 2019, [thediplomat.com/2019/10/rival-camps-clash-over-xinjiang-at-un-committee-session/](http://thediplomat.com/2019/10/rival-camps-clash-over-xinjiang-at-un-committee-session/).

"UHRP Applauds Passage of the UIGHUR Act of 2019 by the U.S. House of Representatives." *UHRP Applauds Passage of the UIGHUR Act of 2019 by the U.S. House of Representatives | Uyghur Human Rights Project*, 3 Dec. 2019, 20:05,

[uhrp.org/press-release/uhrp-applauds-passage-uyghur-act-2019-us-house-representatives.html](http://uhrp.org/press-release/uhrp-applauds-passage-uyghur-act-2019-us-house-representatives.html).

"US Blacklists China Organisations over Xinjiang 'Uighur Abuse'." *BBC News*, BBC, 8 Oct. 2019, [www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49968126](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49968126).

*Written by* Yohan Komery & Niamh Hunter

*Email address:* yohan.k@student.intsch.se

*Email address :* niamh.h@student.intsch.se

*Head Chair :* Niamh Hunter

*Email address:* niamh.h@student.intsch.se

*Approved by* Yoonsik Kim

*Email address:* yoonsik.k@student.intsch.se