

E: publicaffairs@bma.org.uk

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP

Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

Sent via email

26 January 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Uyghur genocide through forced population control via medical methods in Xinjiang, China

We are writing to you, on behalf of the BMA (British Medical Association), to again express our grave concern about the ongoing human rights abuses against the Uyghur people and other minorities in Xinjiang, China.

In a letter sent in 2020 to the former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, we raised our concerns regarding the detention of Uyghurs in “re-education camps”. We noted the shocking reports of human rights abuses, including torture, forced labour, political indoctrination, and reported forced sterilisation. Since then, the situation has developed in the most abhorrent manner and we issued a joint statement with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and other Royal Colleges in December, urging the UK Government and international actors to exert pressure on the Chinese Government without delay.

As you will be aware, The Uyghur Tribunal reported its judgement in December 2021. It found beyond reasonable doubt that the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is guilty of genocide. The Tribunal determined that biological genocide is occurring through restriction of births by forced sterilisation and abortion, segregation of sexes within the detention centres, and forced matrimony and procreation between Uyghur women and Han men. Furthermore, mutilation and biological experiments take place in the detention centres.

The BMA notes the UK Government’s November 2021 response to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee’s report, “Never Again: The UK’s Responsibility to Act on Atrocities in Xinjiang and Beyond”. Despite recognising that the “evidence of the scale and the severity of the human rights violations being perpetrated against Uyghurs and other ethnic minority groups is far-reaching”, the Government was unwilling to “make determinations in relation to genocide” until due “consideration of all the evidence available in the context of a credible judicial process”. In light of the new and growing evidence that accompanies the Uyghur Tribunal’s Judgement, we urge the UK Government to formally recognise the genocide and to take heed of the Foreign Affairs

Chief executive officer: Tom Grinyer

Registered as a Company limited by Guarantee. Registered No. 8848 England.

Registered office: BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JP.

Listed as a Trade Union under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974.



Select Committee's recommendations to increase its efforts to work with the international community to ensure these atrocities are stopped.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Zoe Greaves
Chair, BMA medical ethics committee



Dr Kitty Mohan
Chair, BMA international committee