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COTTON BALLS ON THE SEDER PLATE

A JEWISH RESPONSE TO THE UYGHUR GENOCIDE

YACHATZ, Breaking the Middle Matzah, the leader breaks the Matzah and says:

This broken Matzah reminds us that the world is broken in many ways. As Jews, it is our responsibility to help repair the brokenness. Tonight, as we recall our own story of slavery, we think of the twelve million Uyghur people in China, facing one of the greatest human rights crises since the Holocaust. Since 2017, almost two million Uyghurs have been sent to concentration camps and forced into slave labor. Unable to pray, marry or bury their dead according to their Muslim traditions, Uyghurs are being "re-educated" They have been separated from their families, abused, tortured, raped and murdered. The United States government has deemed this genocide. The story of the Exodus reminds us that we must stand up to tyrants. To remain silent is akin to complicity. Our own liberation, religious freedom and privilege must lead us to fight for the liberation of others to ensure that "Never Again" isn't just a phrase but a call to action.

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ACTION: Tonight, we add **COTTON BALLS** to our Seder Plate to raise our awareness of the enslavement of the Uyghur people. Many of the Uyghur slaves are forced to produce cotton China is the largest producer of cotton in the world, and Xinjiang, home to the Uyghurs, produces 75% of Chinese cotton and 20% of the world's cotton.

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We say together:

We were slaves in Egypt.

We will not turn away from those who are slaves today.

We were redeemed from slavery.

We will do our part to help the Uyghurs live in freedom.

(Our commitment to action will coincide with Elijah's arrival later in the Seder)

ELIJAH's CUP, we open the door to welcome
Elijah to our Seder.

We sing:

Eliyahu HaNavi, Elivahu HaTishbi, Eliyau, Eliyahu, Eliyahu HaGiladi

*May Elijah the Prophet be the herald of messianic times, when we will heal
all the brokenness.*

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In times of trouble, the prophet Elijah mystically appears to lift
downcast spirits and plant hope in the hearts of the downtrodden. We
pray for and work towards Tikkun Olam, a full repair of the world. We
are committed to creating a world when all people, including our
Uyghur cousins, will live in peace and freedom. Elijah was known for
bringing parents and children together. May we dedicate ourselves to
help reconnect Uyghur children separated from their parents, brothers
from sisters, and grandparents from grandchildren. As we confront this
injustice, may we be like the prophet Elijah, who spoke truth to power.

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ACTION: Pour a cup of grape juice. One by one, let each person pour
some drops from their cup into the cup of grape juice set out for Elijah.
In this way, we join Elijah, realizing that we must play a part in bringing
about liberty and recognizing human rights. Let each of us proclaim a
specific commitment to action that we plan to take for the Uyghur
people, other oppressed peoples of the world, and the Jewish people
during this year ahead.

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From bystanders to upstanders

Take action for the Uyghurs by urging your Representative to support
the America Competes Act. This legislation would invest substantially in
the domestic production of goods, rather than those rife with Uyghur
forced labor within the current supply chain and manufacturing. The
U.S. must curb its dependence on these imports by promoting local
production. **Please visit secure.jwww.org/a/americancompetes**