

Topic 1: Question of: Combating Human Trafficking and Its Role in Forced Labor Practices Within Uzbekistan's Cotton Industry

Human trafficking and forced labor have affected Uzbekistan's cotton industry for years. Once one of the world's largest cotton exporters, the country has faced longstanding conflict rooted in decades of systemic abuse. The issues originated from Soviet-era practices, in which the government forced mass groups of people, including students, teachers, and healthcare workers, to work in cotton fields to reach production goals. This practice escalated into the widespread of forced labor, with workers often threatened, unpaid, or forced into labor under harsh conditions. For years, international human rights organizations (The Cotton Campaign, Human Rights Watch) and Western governments (e.g. European Union (EU)) condemned these abuses, which resulted in trade restrictions and an increase in international pressure.

Since 2016, reforms made by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev aimed to dismantle state-enforced labor practices. And the government has made significant progress, including banning forced labor and increasing transparency, which led the International Labour Organization (ILO) to declare that forced labor in Uzbekistan's cotton harvest had ended in 2022. However, as of 2025, the issue persists. Reports indicate that government-imposed cotton production targets and strict control over the harvest continue to create pressure on local farmers. This pressure sometimes leads to coerced practices. Additionally, financial difficulties faced by farmers, such as reduced payments for their crops, have weakened their ability to hire workers, increasing the risk of forced labor. While the Uzbek government has taken steps to address these issues, further policy changes should be implemented to ensure lasting change. Strategies to support ongoing policies, promote ethical labor practices, and strengthen international cooperation are important to safeguarding workers' rights in Uzbekistan's cotton industry.

Topic 2: Question of: Protecting the Rights of Migrants in Detention Centers in the United States

The treatment of migrants in United States detention centers has raised serious human rights concerns, sparked by policies that resulted in overcrowding, inadequate healthcare, and abuse. As migration pressures have increased over the last two decades, especially with the rise in

asylum seekers and undocumented migrants, the U.S. government responded by expanding detention facilities. However, these centers soon became known for their poor conditions, including limited access to essential healthcare, which has led to preventable deaths and widespread illnesses among detainees. Over time, advocacy groups, such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Human Rights Watch, have highlighted the violations of migrants' rights, including the physical and mental abuse detainees suffer. Legal challenges have increased, but these systemic issues persist due to limited access to legal representation, restrictive policies, and a lack of proper oversight.

The ongoing impact of human rights abuses on migrant populations raises urgent concerns, particularly in relation to inadequate healthcare, legal barriers, and physical abuse. This calls for discussion aimed to identify strategies that ensure humane treatment, accessible healthcare, and fair legal processes for all detainees.

Topic 3: Question of: Addressing the Impact of AI Surveillance Expansion on Privacy and Freedom of Speech in China

The expansion of AI surveillance in China has raised significant concerns about privacy and freedom of speech. The conflict began with the rapid development of technologies, such as facial recognition and data tracking, which were initially introduced as security measures. Over time, these technologies have been progressively used to monitor citizens, collect vast amounts of personal data, and suppress dissent.

As the Chinese government implemented stricter control measures, including AI-powered surveillance cameras in public spaces and the social credit system, the controversy of its impact on personal freedoms rose. Critics argue that these technologies disproportionately affect privacy rights and create an environment of self-censorship, where individuals started to limit their expression to avoid government inspections. The situation has since escalated as the Chinese government continues to expand its surveillance infrastructure, employing AI to track and monitor behaviors, even in private spaces. In response, international human rights organizations and foreign governments have raised concerns about the risks posed to privacy and freedom of speech.

Balancing security needs with the protection of individual freedoms remains a complex challenge, particularly with the growing use of AI surveillance in China, which is an issue that calls for careful international consideration and action.