



**Statement of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio,
Cochairman of the Congressional-
Executive Commission on China (CECC)**

**CECC Hearing on “Gendercide: China’s
Missing Girls”**

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

As prepared for delivery.

For over three decades, China’s barbaric One-Child Policy has condemned millions of unwanted or “surplus” Chinese girls to abortion, infanticide, abandonment and human trafficking. This shameful policy, coupled with the cultural preference for boys and access to cheap ultrasound technology, has resulted in what some demographers and human rights advocates have rightly termed gendercide—the wholesale extermination of millions of unborn baby girls.

China is now faced with one of the world’s most severe gender imbalances with roughly 34 million more males than females. Estimates suggest that there will be a surplus of 40-50 million bachelors in China through the mid-to late 21st century. The implications of this imbalance are not fully known or understood, but they are without question significant and troubling.

Some analysts have argued that China’s skewed gender ratio, in addition to representing a grievous human rights abuse, poses a serious security risk as well. Between 2030 and 2045 at least 20 percent of men in China will likely be unable to marry. These “bare branches” as they are known will almost certainly impact China’s stability and development. There is already statistical evidence indicating that the areas of China with the highest sex ration imbalance also have higher incidences of crime to include human trafficking.

In fact, according to reports from regional governments and civil society organizations, trafficking from Southeast Asia into China for forced marriage already appears to be increasing. Additionally, already vulnerable North Korean refugees who escape into China are at grave risk for human trafficking for forced marriages.

It is worth noting that serious questions persist about the extent to which the recently announced Two-Child Policy will address this crisis, even in the long term, as data has shown that sex ratios are in fact more skewed after the birth of the first child.

Nearly two months ago I joined with CECC Chairman, Representative Chris Smith in urging Secretary of State John Kerry to provide an update on the administration’s

implementation of the “Girls Count Act”, which was signed into law on June 12, 2015. As this law’s chief sponsor in the Senate, I was motivated by the fact that every year approximately 51 million children under the age of five are not registered at birth, most of whom are girls, leaving them susceptible to marginalization and exploitation.

This law directs current U.S. foreign assistance programming to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries by working to establish birth registries in their countries. The legislation also prioritizes a variety of rule of law programs intended to raise the legal and financial status of girls in order to help address the cultural and financial rationale for sex-selective abortions. Both components have particular relevance to China.

To date, the Administration has failed to respond to our letter. Given the enormity of this problem and the bipartisan nature of the solution proposed, the seeming lack of priority nearly eight months after the president signed the legislation into law is troubling.

It is worth noting that South Korea, which in the 1990s had a sex ratio almost as skewed as China’s, has effectively normalized the ratio in recent years primarily through elevating the status and value of women and daughters—precisely the aim of the Girls Count legislation.

As a father of four, to include two daughters, I believe it is vital that the U.S. continues advocating for the complete elimination of government-forced population planning as well as the fundamental rights of all Chinese citizens to live up to their God-given potential.