

**Zan, Zendegi, Azadi (=Women, Life, Freedom):
Resolution on Human Rights and Freedom of Speech and Expression in Iran**

- Whereas the killing of Mahsa Amini (22 years old, female) in the custody of the Morality Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the subsequent killings of Nika Shahkarami (16 years old, female), Sarina Esmailzadeh (16 years old, female), Hadis Najafi (21 years old, female), Kian Pirfalak (10 years old, female), and hundreds of other people by various law enforcement and military, paramilitary, and militia entities of the Islamic Republic of Iran have sparked widespread protests inside and outside Iran, including in the United States. Thousands of peaceful protesters have been arrested and hundreds, including children and teenagers, have been killed, blinded, executed by the Regime in the past 5+ months; and
- Whereas the protesters ask for democracy, freedom of speech and expression, human rights, and women's rights under the slogan of "Zan, Zendegi, Azadi" (=Women, Life, Freedom); and
- Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran initially shut down, and subsequently censored and filtered Iranians' access to the Internet to paralyze the protests and stop the flow of information about the protests and the respective killings to the outside world; and
- Whereas the United States Government has imposed and tightened sanctions against the Iranian officials and entities who are responsible for the ongoing crackdown on protests and Internet censorship (US Department of State, 2022a).
- Whereas the United States Government, in collaboration with the private sector, has taken steps to provide Internet access to the people of Iran and "support the courageous [protesters] who are fighting for their basic human rights" (White House, 2022; US Department of State, 2022b); and
- Whereas with the vote of the members of U.N. Economic and Social Council the Islamic Republic of Iran was "removed with immediate effect from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)" on December 14, 2022 (Nichols, 2022); and
- Whereas ALA Policy B.2.1.13 states that "The American Library Association believes that freedom of expression is an inalienable human right, necessary to self-government, vital to the resistance of oppression, and crucial to the course of justice, and further, that the principles of freedom of expression should be applied by libraries and librarians throughout the world;" and
- Whereas ALA Policy B.2.8 states that "the American Library Association deplores ... the disruption of the educational process by that act, whether it be done by individuals or groups of individuals and whether it be in the name of honest dissent, the desire to control or limit thought or ideas, or for any other purpose"; and
- Whereas "the ALA works with other associations and institutions that belong to IFLA to develop positions and programmatic plans of action in support of human rights and freedom of expression"; and

Whereas “... the president or the member officially representing the Association at IFLA conferences is empowered to vote on new IFLA resolutions related to human rights and freedom; their votes shall be guided by ALA's adoption of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the good of the Association” (Resolution on IFLA, Human Rights and Freedom of Expression, 1997); now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members

1. Stands with the people of Iran and supports their efforts for achieving democracy, human rights, women's rights, and freedom of speech and expression;
2. Condemns acts of violence and censorship by the Islamic Republic of Iran;
3. Urges the United States government, United Nations, and international organizations to support the people of Iran; and
4. Supports efforts providing resources, tools, educational materials, and other forms of assistance that help Iranians and Iranian librarians to combat misinformation and disinformation campaigns targeting the protests and protesters.

ALA, B.2.1.13 Universal Right to Free Expression, ALA Policy Manual. Retrieved October 27, 2022 from <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/policymanual/updatedpolicymanual/section2/53intellfreedom#B.2.1.13>

ALA, B.2.8 Destruction of Libraries, ALA Policy Manual. Retrieved October 27, 2022 from <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/policymanual/updatedpolicymanual/section2/53intellfreedom#B.2.8>.

ALA, Resolution on IFLA, Human Rights and Freedom of Expression (1997). Retrieved October 27, 2022 from <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/iro/awardsactivities/resolutionifla>

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