

Resolution on Human Rights and Freedom of Speech and Expression in Iran

Whereas the killing of Mahsa Amini a young woman, in the custody of the Morality Police of Islamic Republic of Iran on September 16, 2022 has sparked widespread protests in Iran for efforts for human rights, including women's rights, freedom of speech and expression, and self-determination under the slogan "Zan, Zendegi, Azadi"- "Women, Life, Freedom" (Moaveni, 2022);

Whereas the crackdown by the government and aligned entities has resulted in the killing of hundreds of people, including other young women such as Hadis Najafi and teenage girls Nika Shakarami and Sarina Esmailzadeh and nine-year old boy Kian Pirlalak; (Mezzofiore, Polglase, & Pourahmadi, 2022; Ghobadi, 2022; Dehghanpisheh, 2022; VOA Persian, 2023; Engelbrecht, 2022; Simon, 2023);

Whereas, thousands of protesters, including librarian, teachers, and authors have been arrested for advocating for human rights and free expression (VOA Persian, 2023);

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran initially shut down, and continues to censor and restrict 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; (US Department of State & The Freedom Online Coalition, 2022);

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);

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, 2022);

Whereas, the ALA through the Executive Board, made a statement on December 9, 2022 supporting Iranian colleagues and the people of Iran in their efforts for human rights, including women's rights and freedom of speech and expression;

Whereas, ALA Policy B.6.2.2 states "[t]hreats to the freedom of expression of any person become threats to the freedom of all; therefore ALA adopts as policy the principles of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The Association will address the grievances of foreign nationals where the infringement of their rights of free expression is clearly a matter in which all free people should show concern."; 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 human rights, women's rights, freedom of speech and expression, and self-determination;
2. condemns acts of violence and censorship by the Islamic Republic of Iran;
3. encourages the United States government 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.

Mover: Ramin Naderi, Councilor-At-Large

Seconder: Aaron Dobbs, Councilor for Small Round Tables

American Library Association, B.6.2.2 Abridgment of the Rights of Freedom of Foreign Nationals (Old Number 58.3), ALA Policy Manual. Retrieved January 26, 2023 from <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/policymanual/updatedpolicymanual/section2/intl-rels#B.6.2.2>

American Library Association (2022, December 9). *ALA supports human rights and freedom of expression in Iran* [Press release]. <https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2022/12/ala-supports-human-rights-and-freedom-expression-iran>

Dehghanpisheh, B (2022, November 18). The killing of a 9-year-old boy further ignites Iran's anti-government protests. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved January 26, 2023 from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/11/18/iran-protests-izeh-kian-pirfalak/>

Engelbrecht, C. (2022, November 27). Hundreds of Protesters in Iran Blinded by Metal Pellets and Rubber Bullets. *The New York Times*. Retrieved January 25, 2022 from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/19/world/asia/iran-protesters-eye-injuries.html>

Ghobadi, P. (2022, October 14). Iran protests: Iran's Gen Z 'realise life can be lived differently'. *BBC*. Retrieved January 26, 2022 from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-63213745>

Mezzofiore, G., Polglase, K., & Pourahmadi, A. (2022, October 27). What really happened to Nika Shahkarami? Witnesses to her final hours cast doubt on Iran's story. *CNN*. Retrieved January 26, 2022 from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/27/middleeast/iran-nika-shahkarami-investigation-intl-cmd/index.html>

Moaveni, A. (2022, October 7). 'It's Like a War Out There.' Iran's Women Haven't Been This Angry in a Generation. *The New York Times*. Retrieved January 27, 2023 from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/07/opinion/iran-women-protests.html>

Nichols, M. (2022, December 14). Iran ousted from U.N. women's group after U.S. campaign. *Reuters*. Retrieved December 14, 2022 from <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-likely-be-ousted-un-womens-body-2022-12-14>

Simon, S. (Host) (2023, January 21). Iran is using the death penalty against protesters and government critics [Radio broadcast episode]. Retrieved January 25, 2022 from

<https://www.npr.org/2023/01/21/1150548978/iran-is-using-the-death-penalty-against-protesters-and-government-critics>

The United States Department of State (2022). *Iran Sanctions*. Retrieved October 27, 2022 from <https://www.state.gov/iran-sanctions/>

The United States Department of State & The Freedom Online Coalition (2022, October 20). *Joint Statement on Internet Shutdowns in Iran* [Press release]. Retrieved January 26, 2022 from <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-internet-shutdowns-in-iran/>

VOA Persian (2023, January 3). Monitor: 516 Killed Since Iran Protests Began. *Voice of America*. Retrieved January 26, 2022 from <https://www.voanews.com/a/monitor-516-killed-since-iran-protests-began/6901960.html>