

Iran's Regime: A Chronicle of Women's Rights and Broader Human Rights Abuses

1. Introduction

This report presents a brief yet focused analysis of women's rights in Iran within the broader context of human rights abuses perpetrated by the revolutionary regime in Tehran. By examining latest developments, this report aims to shed light on the systemic oppression and discrimination faced by women in Iran. It will outline the cultural, religious, social, and legal factors contributing to these abuses, as well as the international community's response and efforts to address these issues. This fits in the wider efforts of Sallux to support a foreign policy based on human dignity.

2. Broader Human Rights Violations

Before delving into the specific challenges faced by women, it is essential to understand that the Iranian regime's human rights violations extend beyond gender-based abuses. In fact, the regime has a notorious record of violating various fundamental rights, including the following:

1. **Torture:** Widespread use of torture and ill-treatment of detainees.
2. **Abduction or Forced Disappearance:** Arbitrary detention, abduction, and summary execution of dissidents.
3. **Religious Freedom:** Repression of religious minorities including Christians, Sunni Muslims, Sufi Muslims, and Zoroastrians.
4. **Freedom of Expression:** Censorship, restrictions on media and internet access, and punishment for dissenting opinions.
5. **Ethnic Minority Rights:** Systemic discrimination against ethnic minorities such as Kurds, Baloch and Arabs.
6. **LGBTQ+ Rights:** Criminalization and severe penalties for same-sex relations and LGBTQ+ individuals.

7. **Right to a Fair Trial:** Lack of due process, forced confessions, and sham trials.
8. **Freedom of Assembly:** Violent crackdowns on peaceful protests and arbitrary arrests.

3. Women's Rights in Iran

3.1 Factors that contribute to women's rights violations

An extreme interpretation of sharia law, (which is an interpretation of Islamic religious principles for daily life), has a significant influence on gender discrimination and the violation of women's rights. Interpretations of Sharia can enforce unequal treatment in areas such as inheritance, testimony in court, and family law. For example, in some interpretations, a woman's testimony is considered half as worth as a man's, and women may receive a smaller share of inheritance compared to their male counterparts.

One of the most evident forms of gender discrimination is the mandatory 'modesty dress code,' which compels women to wear the hijab, along with loose clothing, long tunics, and prohibits bright colors. The recent law, titled *Protection of the Family through Promoting the Culture of Hijab and Chastity*, approved in 2023, comes to enforce the compulsory use of the hijab and imposes severe penalties for violations, including fines, imprisonment, and restrictions on employment and education.¹ It also mandates surveillance and reporting by both businesses and individuals.

Gender discrimination also manifests in violent and restrictive practices. So called "honor killings," allow a husband to kill his wife if caught *in flagrante delicto* committing adultery, with little to no legal repercussions.² The ban on women entering soccer stadiums is another example of both cultural and legislative discrimination. This prohibition has been a major point of contention between the regime and the public for years.³

¹ "Iran: Law to Protect the Family by Promoting the Culture of Chastity and Hijab Proposed" Library of Congress. Prepared by Sahar Fallah, Law Library Intern, under the supervision of Tariq Ahmad, Foreign Law Specialist. September 8, 2023.

² "Iranian press review: One honor killing happening every four days, says report", Middle East Eye, July 6, 2023.

³ "Iran Continues Women's Stadium Ban", Iran International (iranintl.com) September 28, 2023.

A husband can bar his wife from working in certain jobs if he deems it "contrary to family values."⁴ The legal age for marriage is 13, but girls under 13 may be married with court approval — a practice that fuels the widespread issue of forced child marriages in Iran.⁵ More broadly, the life of a woman is legally valued at half that of a man, a principle that is reflected in the way women are punished under the law.

The Ayatollahs' regime plays a key role in adopting and enforcing an extreme interpretation of Sharia law, with the judiciary acting as a central pillar of repression. Vast sectors of Iranians, particularly the younger generations, are determined to bring about reform and a more open conception of society, creating significant tension. However, rather than heeding the people's demands, the regime adopts an increasingly hardline stance, relying on crackdowns and repression. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), as the guardian of the purity of the revolution, ensures that any manifestation of life that departs from the literal interpretation of Sharia law is harshly suppressed — a crackdown often backed by judicial rulings.

3.2 Women in the revolutionary constitution

The 1979 Iranian Constitution includes provisions that acknowledge women's rights and their roles in society. Article 3 (14) states: "Securing the multifarious rights of all citizens, both women and men, and providing legal protection for all, as well as the equality of all before the law." However, Article 21, which specifically pertains to women's rights, states: "The government must ensure the rights of women in all respects, **in conformity with Islamic criteria.**" (bold added)

This limitation in Article 21 lies in the phrase "in conformity with Islamic criteria," which subjects the equality and rights promised in Article 3 (14) to interpretations of Sharia law.⁶ This often results in the perpetuation of gender disparities and discrimination, as the interpretation of "Islamic criteria" is invariably conservative and restrictive in practice.

⁴ "Patriarchy and Unjust Laws Create Obstacles for Women's Employment in Iran", Mahrokn Gholamhosseinpour, Iran Wire, November 6, 2020.

⁵ "Gender inequality and discrimination: The case of Iranian women" Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, March 5, 2013.

⁶ "Gender inequality and discrimination: The case of Iranian women" Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, March 5, 2013.

The nuanced contradiction between Articles 3 (14) and 21 highlights the systemic issues in the legal framework that hinder the realization of genuine equality for women. This gap between the constitution's broader promises and the specific limitations imposed on women's rights is a significant factor contributing to the ongoing struggles for gender equality in Iran.

3.3 The Jina (Masha) Amini's Affair

Jina (Mahsa) Amini's tragic death in September 2022 indeed marked a significant turning point in the emergence of women's resistance against the Ayatollahs' regime in Iran. Her death, while in government custody for allegedly refusing to wear the hijab, sparked widespread protests and became a symbol of the struggle for women's rights and broader human rights in the country.⁷

Here are some key consequences of the uprising:

1. **Nationwide Protests:** Jina's death led to massive protests across Iran, with people from various backgrounds and regions joining in solidarity. These protests were unprecedented in their scale and intensity, challenging the regime's authority and demanding justice.
2. **International Attention:** The protests garnered significant international attention, with global media coverage and statements of support from various governments and human rights organizations. This increased pressure on the Iranian regime to address human rights abuses.⁸
3. **Crackdown on Protesters:** The Iranian government responded with a harsh crackdown on protesters, using lethal force, arbitrary arrests, and widespread repression. According to human rights groups, over 300 people were killed, and thousands more were detained.⁹

⁷ "Iran is responsible for the 'physical violence' that killed Mahsa Amini in 2022, UN probe finds." John Gambrell, AP, March 9, 2024.

⁸ "Iran: Deadly crackdown on protests against Mahsa Amini's death in custody needs urgent global action". Amnesty International, press release September 21, 2022.

⁹ "Iran: Crackdown on peaceful protests since death of Jina Mahsa Amini needs independent international investigation, say UN experts", United Nations, Human Rights, Office of High Commissioner, Press Release, October 26, 2022

4. **Women's Leadership:** The protests were notable for the prominent role played by women and youth. Women-led demonstrations challenged not only the mandatory hijab laws but also the broader patriarchal and authoritarian structures of the regime.
5. **Continued Resistance:** Despite the brutal crackdown, the spirit of resistance endures. Activists and exiles continue to hope that the protests left an indelible mark on Iran and that Amini's death was not in vain. The movement has inspired ongoing efforts to challenge the regime and advocate for human rights.
6. **International Sanctions and Pressure:** The international community has imposed sanctions and increased diplomatic pressure on Iran in response to the regime's human rights abuses. This has further isolated the Iranian government and highlighted the need for reform.

Jina Amini's death and the subsequent uprising have had a profound impact on Iran, highlighting the resilience and determination of those fighting for justice and equality

3.4 Exclusion of Women and Resistance

Following Jina Amini's death in 2022, the "**Woman, Life, Freedom**" movement was established, and it is led by a new generation of young people who wish to fight for their rights.¹⁰ "The Iranian people have passed the stage of fear".¹¹ One of the most remarkable aspects of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement is its inclusivity and diversity. People from all walks of life, including women, men, students, workers, and ethnic and religious minorities, have come together to demand change. The movement has also inspired solidarity and support from the global community, with protests and demonstrations taking place in cities around the world.¹²

Despite the growing support and momentum of the movement, the Iranian authorities have intensified their efforts to suppress dissent and stifle the voices of those demanding change. As part of broader crackdown on dissent, the Iranian authorities have been focusing on destroying this movement. In April 2024, the regime launched a new national campaign called the "**Noor Plan**", which included overt security patrols on foot, and presence of motorbikes, cars, and policemen in public areas, in order to enforce the

¹⁰ "Woman, Life, Freedom: How a Protest Movement Changed Iran", Solmaz Eikdor, Iranwire, September 15, 2024.

¹¹ <https://jcpa.org.il/video/when-speaking-out-becomes-a-death-sentence/> released April 4, 2024.

¹² <https://womanlifefreedom.ucsf.edu/?form=MG0AV3> this is the movement's website.

draconian laws of the modesty dressing laws, including the demand to wear a veil in the specific way required by the regime.¹³ As part of the Noor Plan, the so called “morality police” have escalated enforcement regarding women driving a car. Punishments include confiscating the car, imprisonment, and public flogging in a cruel, inhumane manner.¹⁴

3.5 Ban on entering soccer stadiums: another field of resistance

In September 2019, there was an incident in protest of the ban on entering soccer stadiums, which was similar in nature to the high-profile hijab protests. Sahar Khodayari, also known as the “blue girl” set herself on fire in front of a court in Tehran after being tried for trying to enter a stadium dressed as a man. This incident brought international pressure to bear on the Iranian regime, particularly by FIFA. As a result, 4,500 women were allowed to attend a match for the first time (separately from the men). FIFA gave Iran an ultimatum that it would not be able to host matches as part of international tournaments if it did not allow women to enter the stadiums.¹⁵ Several matches were held in Iran without spectators (according to the regime, the reason for this was the coronavirus crisis).

3.6 Domestic Violence and Femicide

Domestic violence and femicide are widespread in Iran, where women frequently suffer abuse without adequate legal recourse. Despite some legal protections, such as the Family Protection Law, the enforcement of such laws is often weak, and perpetrators rarely face justice.

Women subjected to domestic violence are often forced to endure physical and psychological harm in silence due to societal stigmas and lack of support services. A study conducted in 2016 by the Iranian Red Crescent surveyed 28 provinces and found that 66% of women had experienced domestic violence at least once, whether by their husbands or in-laws.¹⁶

¹³ “What is the “Noor Plan” and why has Faraja been responsible for its implementation” Soghra Rahimi, Peace Mark Magazine: Human Rights and Social Justice Monthly, February 19, 2025.

¹⁴ “Iran’s Noor Plan Intensifies Crackdown on Women”, Foundation for Defense of Democracies FFD, Flash Brief, April 23, 2024.

¹⁵ “Grotesque tragedy unlikely to shame Fifa into action over Iran’s ban on female fans”, Marina Hyde, The Guardian, September 18, 2019.

¹⁶ Iranian Red Crescent Medical Journal, May 17, 2016.

The high number of women in Iran murdered by male family members under the pretext of “disgracing the family” remains deeply concerning. Based on public reports alone, an honor killing is carried out every two days on average.

The murders are mainly committed by husbands and ex-husbands, but also brothers, fathers, sons, and other family members such as fathers-in-law and cousins. The murderers use cruel methods such as stabbing, torching, strangling, shooting, poisoning, beating, decapitating, vehicle-ramming, and throwing women out the window.¹⁷

Additional “reasons” for honor killing include asking for a divorce, refusing a marriage proposal, and refusing to get married in general. According to **Stop Honor Killings**, women of all age groups in Iran have been victims of honor killings, but most of the victims are under the age of 30, and many times, their children witness the murder. In 2023, the average age of killed women was 32-year-old.¹⁸ Most of the murders were registered in the capital, Tehran, contrary to the belief that murders of women are more common in rural areas.

According to **Stop Femicide in Iran (SFI)**, at least 93 cases of women murdered were reported in the first half of 2024 — representing an almost 60% increase compared to the same period in 2023. A total of 149 women were murdered in 2023, averaging nearly one woman per day.¹⁹ Note that the statistics do not include cases in which women were forced to commit suicide, or decided to end their lives in order to escape domestic violence.

3.7 Child Marriage

Child marriage in Iran remains a significant violation of the rights of women and children. As discussed above, Iranian law permits girls to marry at 13 and boys at 15, with even younger marriages possible with paternal and judicial consent. This legal framework has led to numerous cases where young girls are coerced into marriage, subjecting them to domestic violence and hindering their educational and personal development. Many reported femicides involve young women and girls trapped in forced child marriages.

¹⁷ “Killed Because You Are a Woman—Violence Against Women in Iran Reaches New Heights”, Center for Human Rights in Iran. January 6, 2025.

¹⁸ “Fourth Quarterly Report on “Honor Killings” in 2023”, Rezvan Moohaddam, Stop Honor Killings, November 28, 2024.

¹⁹ “Stop Femicide in Iran Platform Released an 18-month report on Lethal Violence Against Women and Girls in Iran” Stop Femicide in Iran (STI), July 30, 2024.

Such practices not only perpetuate systemic violence but also violate international human rights standards that Iran is obligated to uphold.

3.8 Execution of Women

Iran has seen a concerning rise in the execution of women in recent years. In 2024, at least 31 women were executed, marking the highest number since 2010.²⁰

This increase is part of a broader surge in executions; the total number of executions in Iran rose to 901 in 2024, with women constituting a significant portion of those executed.²¹

Many of these women faced charges related to drug offenses or were convicted of murdering their husbands. Notably, some of these women had acted in self-defense against domestic violence or were victims of forced marriages. For instance, a report highlighted that several women executed in 2024 had been convicted of killing their husbands to prevent the rape of their daughters or after being coerced into marriage.²²

Human rights organizations have raised alarms about this trend, emphasizing that many of these women were themselves victims of systemic abuse and lacked adequate legal representation during their trials. The international community continues to call on Iran to reform its judicial practices, ensure fair trials, and address the underlying issues leading to such tragic outcomes.

3.9 A Closer Look at Victims' Stories

The following section takes a closer look at individual victims' stories, providing their names and key details to illustrate the human impact of women's rights violations in Iran:

1. Teheran, on February 16, 2025, **Najibeh Hassan-Khani**, a 40-year-old woman, was lured by her husband under the pretense of finalizing their divorce settlement. Once at the designated location, he locked her inside the car and set it ablaze. She succumbed to her severe burns after being transferred to the hospital.²³

²⁰ "Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2024" Iran Human Rights (iranhr.net)

²¹ "UN says Iran executed over 900 people in 2024, including dozens of women", Emma Farge, Reuters, January 7, 2025.

²² Ibid

²³ "Women Are Force For Change" National Council for Resistance of Iran (NCRI) Committee For Women, March 3, 2025.

2. Kermanshah, on February 17, 2025, **Donya Hosseini**, a 23-year-old woman, was stabbed and killed by her father just a day after returning to her family home following a recent divorce. The killing was reportedly motivated by so-called ‘honor’ concerns.²⁴
3. Gorgan, on February 22, 2025, **Arezou Kami**, a mother of two, was fatally stabbed by her husband.²⁵
4. Jahrom, on February 27, 2025, **Delara Jahandideh**, a 38-year-old woman, succumbed to severe head trauma two days after being brutally beaten with a wooden object by her husband. She had been repeatedly threatened with death and acid attacks by her spouse in the months leading up to her murder. Authorities had failed to take preventive action, despite clear evidence of prior attempts on her life.²⁶
5. Rasht Central Prison, on March 15, 2021, **Maryam Karimi** was executed for allegedly killing her abusive husband. Despite her claims of self-defense and the evidence of domestic violence, the court sentenced her to death. Her daughter executed the death sentence.²⁷
6. Gohardasht Prison of Karaj: In February 2023, **Zahra Esmaili** was executed for allegedly killing her husband, who was a senior official in the Ministry of Intelligence. Zahra claimed that she acted in self-defense after enduring years of abuse. She was “executed” even when she had already suffered a fatal heart attack when waiting for her turn to be hanged.²⁸

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ “Iran: Maryam Karimi's Execution Carried Out by Daughter”, Iran Human Rights, March 15, 2011.

²⁸ “Innocent woman dies of heart attack before reaching the gallows” Women Are Force For Change” National Council for Resistance of Iran (NCRI) Committee For Women, February 21, 2021.

7. In October 2015, **Fatemeh Salbehi** was executed for allegedly killing her husband at the age of 17. She had possibly been subjected to a forced marriage. Despite being a minor at the time of the crime and the evidence of forced marriage and abuse, the court sentenced her to death.²⁹
8. Teheran, in September 2019, **Sahar Khodayari**, also known as "Blue Girl," set herself on fire after being arrested for attempting to enter a football stadium disguised as a man. Women are banned from attending football matches in Iran, and Sahar's tragic death highlighted the extreme measures women take to challenge discriminatory laws.³⁰
9. In December 2022, **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, a prominent human rights lawyer, was sentenced to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes for defending women's rights activists and protesting against the mandatory hijab laws.³¹
10. In October 2018, **Zeinab Sekaanvand** was executed for allegedly killing her abusive husband. She was only 17 years old at the time of the crime and claimed that she acted in self-defense after enduring years of abuse.³²
11. In June 2019, **Fariba Adelhah**, a prominent anthropologist, was arrested and sentenced to six years in prison on charges of "propaganda against the state" and "colluding to commit acts against national security".
12. In 2015, **Atena Farghadani**: a cartoonist and activist, was sentenced to 12 years and nine months in prison for her artwork criticizing the Iranian government.³³

²⁹ "Iran: UN rights experts outraged at the execution of two juvenile offenders" United Nations, Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, Press Release, October 16, 2015.

³⁰ "Death of Blue Girl shines light on women's rights in Iran", Samantha Lewis, The Guardian, September 20, 2019.

³¹ "Human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh jailed for 38 years in jail in Iran, The Guardian, March 11, 2019.

³² "Iran: Former child bride executed after stillbirth" Amnesty International UK, October 11, 2018.

³³ "HRF celebrates the release of Iranian cartoonist Atena Farghadani". Human Rights Foundation, Press Release, December 20, 2024.

13. Noor, on July 22, 2024, **Arezoo Badri**, a 31-year-old woman, is reported to have been left paralyzed after being shot by Iranian police who were attempting to stop her car over alleged violations of Iran's draconian hijab laws.³⁴
14. Miandoab, on December 5, 2024, a man brutally stabbed his fiancée, **Masdesa Jadidat**, 19-year-old, and her sister **Hadessa Jadidat**, to death. The killer committed the heinous act after Mahdessa decides to bring their relation to an end.³⁵
15. Sanandaj, northwest Iran, on December, 25, 2024, 27-year-old **Ghazaleh Hodoudi** woman was murdered because she refused a marriage proposal. She died of her burns at the Kowsar Hospital in. Ghazaleh was set on fire at her workplace in the city of Naysar, near Sanandaj. Houdodi was an independent woman who worked in a tailor shop and spent time with her 11-year-old daughter.³⁶
16. Bandar Abbas, on 23 November 2024, a young woman called **Halimeh Habibollahi** was murdered by her husband, who was also her cousin on her father's side. A relative of the family said: "Halimeh was forced into a child marriage. Throughout her marriage, she was constantly abused by her husband. After he killed her, he claimed that she had committed suicide, which is completely false."³⁷
17. Teheran, on 09 November 2024, **Mansoureh Ghadiri Javid**, a journalist who worked for the state-owned news news agency IRNA, was knifed to death by

³⁴ "Iranian woman paralysed after being shot over hijab", Parham Ghobadi, BBC News, August 12, 2024.

³⁵ "Horroric Killing of Two Tabrizi Sisters in Miandoab", Stop Honor Killings. December 20, 2024.

³⁶ "Killed Because You are a Woman in Iran.", The Cross in the Dessert, A blog by Randi Noble, January 14, 2025

³⁷ "The Tragic Story of Halimeh: From Childhood to a Tragic End", Stop Honor Killings, November 27, 2024.

her husband. According to the offender, the reason for the murder was "domestic disputes".³⁸

- 18.** Sanandaj, on 23 June 2024, 27 year old **Narmin Pirhaman**, a mother of two, was stabbed to death by her husband during a dispute over her request to get a divorce. Pirhaman had been forced to marry at the age of 14, and was subjected to repeated domestic violence.³⁹

These cases illustrate the ongoing injustices faced by ordinary women in Iran and the severe consequences they endure for challenging discriminatory laws and practices.

4. Violation of International Human Rights Law

The violations of women's rights by the Iranian regime infringe upon several international human rights laws and treaties. These include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The UDHR guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms, such as the right to life, liberty, and security of person, as well as freedom from torture and degrading treatment. The ICCPR further elaborates on these rights, emphasizing the importance of non-discrimination and equality before the law.

CEDAW, often described as an international bill of rights for women, explicitly acknowledges that discrimination against women violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity. Although Iran has not ratified this convention, its provisions are so widely internationally accepted that can be considered rules of customary of law and therefore applicable and binding on Iran.

CEDAW requires states to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all its forms. Iran's systemic repression of women, including enforced dress codes, restrictions on movement, and severe penalties for non-compliance, directly contravenes these international obligations. The use of violence, arbitrary detention, and other forms of coercion to enforce discriminatory laws violates the principles of human dignity and equality enshrined in these treaties.

³⁸ "The Killing of IRNA Journalist, Mansoureh Ghadiri Javid, by Her Husband", Stop Honor Killings, November 13, 2024.

³⁹ "Honor killing in Sanandaj, Iran: Woman murdered by her husband", [Non Honor in Killing](#)

Additionally, the lack of legal protections and accountability for perpetrators of violence against women further exacerbates the infringement of women's rights and undermines the rule of law.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Transformation will not come through policy change, only through regime change. While International Women's Day on March 8th is a celebration of achievements and equality in many countries, in Iran it symbolizes a long struggle against a regime that brutally suppresses women's rights.

Women's rights in Iran are of the worst in the world, due to the systematical oppression and discrimination by the Iranian regime- Iran is ranked 143 out of 146 countries in the World Economic Forum's 2024 Gender Gap Index, and 140 out of 177 countries in Georgetown University's 2023 Women Peace and Security Index.

The atrocities are unimaginable. There are tens of millions of women in Iran who suffer from this dire situation, but like other crimes of this regime — transformation will not come through policy change, only through regime change, because this is the true nature of the ayatollahs who rule the country.

The 2025 International Women's Day is a perfect opportunity for anyone who cares about women and human rights to publicly demand a change of this heinous regime. The international community's voice is needed, because Iranian women are forced to be silent- Your support is essential.

While in democratic countries the International Women's Day celebrates women's achievements and equality, in Iran it symbolizes the cruelty and discrimination of the regime against women and their struggle for a better future.

"The worldwide protests following Mahsa Amini's murder in 2022 are a vibrant example that change is possible and hope is reachable if we unite and firmly fight for this just cause. Governments, international organizations, and human rights activists—now is the time to act."

Recommended course of action

To address the systematic oppression and discrimination against women in Iran, a comprehensive and coordinated advocacy campaign is essential.

Given the lack of recourse to the courts, this campaign will focus on advocacy at every possible level within the United Nations and the European Parliament. The following steps are recommended:

1. United Nations Advocacy:

1. Formation of a Special Rapporteur:

- Advocate for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the situation of women's rights in Iran. This individual would be responsible for monitoring, reporting, and making recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council on measures to address women's rights violations in Iran.

2. UN Human Rights Council Resolutions:

- Lobby for the adoption of resolutions by the UN Human Rights Council condemning the violations of women's rights in Iran and calling for specific actions to improve the situation. These resolutions should urge the Iranian government to repeal discriminatory laws, protect women's rights activists, and hold perpetrators of violence accountable.

3. Universal Periodic Review (UPR):

- Engage with the UPR process to ensure that the human rights record of Iran is thoroughly reviewed, and that specific recommendations regarding women's rights are made. Provide detailed reports and testimonies to the UPR Working Group to highlight the violations and propose actionable steps.

2. European Parliament Advocacy:

1. Formation of a Special Commission:

- Advocate for the establishment of a special commission within the European Parliament dedicated to addressing women's rights violations in Iran. This commission would investigate the situation, hold hearings, and make policy recommendations to the European Union and its member states.

2. Parliamentary Resolutions and Debates:

- Lobby for the adoption of resolutions by the European Parliament condemning the treatment of women in Iran and calling for concrete actions by the EU. These resolutions should emphasize the need for targeted sanctions against individuals and entities responsible for human rights abuses.

3. Collaborate with EU Institutions:

- Work with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission to develop and implement strategies to support Iranian women's rights activists and organizations. This could include funding, technical assistance, and diplomatic pressure on the Iranian government.

3. Global Advocacy:

1. International Coalition Building:

- Build a coalition of governments, international organizations, and human rights activists to advocate for women's rights in Iran. This coalition should coordinate efforts, share information, and amplify the voices of Iranian women.

2. Public Awareness Campaigns:

- Launch global awareness campaigns to inform the public about the situation of women's rights in Iran and mobilize support for advocacy efforts. Utilize social media, traditional media, and public events to reach a wide audience.

3. Support for Iranian Women's Rights Organizations:

- Provide financial and logistical support to Iranian women's rights organizations working on the ground. This support should aim to strengthen their capacity to advocate for change and provide assistance to victims of discrimination and violence.

By implementing these advocacy strategies at multiple levels, we can apply sustained pressure on the Iranian regime to respect and protect the rights of women, and ultimately, drive meaningful change.

APPENDIX

The United Nations (UN) has addressed the situation of women's rights in Iran through various commissions and mechanisms, leading to significant actions and recommendations.

In November 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Council established an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the deteriorating human rights situation in Iran, with a focus on the rights of women and children.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/MAHSA_Act?utm_source=chatgpt.com

This mission has been actively gathering information and evidence related to human rights violations, including those against women, in the context of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests that began in September 2022. The mission's findings have highlighted issues such as extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, torture, and gender-based persecution.

https://apa-ice.org/2024/03/11/un-fact-finding-mission-report-on-iran-crimes-against-humanity/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Removal from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW):

In December 2022, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) voted to expel Iran from the CSW for the remainder of its 2022–2026 term. This decision was prompted by Iran's violent crackdown on women-led protests following the death of Mahsa Amini. The resolution cited Iran's oppression of women and girls, including the use of lethal force against peaceful protesters.

https://press.un.org/en/2022/ecosoc7109.doc.htm?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Submissions:

In July 2024, a joint submission was made to the UN's UPR, highlighting concerns about the human rights situation for women and girls in Iran. The submission emphasized the need for constitutional, legislative, and administrative measures to ensure women's equal access to work, political offices, and positions within the judiciary and public sector. It also called for the removal of existing barriers to women's participation in all aspects of public and political life, including decision-making roles.

https://impactiran.org/2024/07/26/joint-submission-universal-periodical-review-upr-2024-women-girls/?utm_source=chatgpt.com



s a l l u x | Koningin Wilhelminalaan 5 | 3818 HN Amersfoort | The Netherlands

Special Rapporteur's Report:

In November 2024, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, Mai Sato, presented a report to the General Assembly. The report raised concerns about the rising number of executions, lack of transparency, and the deteriorating human rights situation for women and girls in Iran. It emphasized the need for Iran to prioritize women's rights, the right to life, and improve transparency.

https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/11/iran-must-prioritise-womens-rights-right-life-and-improve-transparency-says?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Advocacy and Submissions by NGOs:

Organizations such as Justice for Iran (JFI) have actively engaged with UN mechanisms to highlight human rights abuses against women in Iran. JFI has submitted alternative reports to UN bodies, addressing issues like early and forced marriages, and the rights of women and sexual minorities. Their submissions have contributed to UN recommendations urging Iran to address these human rights violations.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_for_Iran?utm_source=chatgpt.com