



US WOMEN'S CAUCUS AT THE UN

The US Women's Caucus at the UN expresses its heartfelt appreciation for the courage and dedication of the women and girls of Iran as they face a repressive government intent on suppressing their human rights. We stand in solidarity with those brave Iranian women and men who risk their lives to assert human dignity and declare: Women - Life - Freedom.

On the anniversary of the death of Jina Mahsa Amini and in remembrance of other women and girls killed in the past year in Iran, we stand with those who protest the visit of the president of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, at the United Nations on September 19, 2023. There must be accountability for those in authority who have perpetrated crimes against protesters who assert their human rights.

We applaud the work of the Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by Sara Hossein, and support their efforts to investigate human rights violations related to the protests that began with the death of Ms. Amini. We are grateful for their July 2023 Oral Update to the Human Rights Council, including their attention to those detained in connection with the protests, especially the women journalists Niloufar Hamed and Elahe Mohammadi who initially covered the protests.

In connection with the protests by women and girls in Iran, our Caucus members are deeply troubled by the reported poisoning of an estimated 7000 innocent schoolgirls in Iran beginning in November 2022. This systemic attack on young girls allegedly targeted their food, water, and environment. This abhorrent, malicious, inhuman crime against young girls' life, liberty, health, and future must be investigated thoroughly, and we applaud the commitment of the Fact-Finding Mission to include the poisoning of schoolgirls in their mandate. Education is a fundamental human right, including for girls. No country can prosper or earn the respect of the international community if their youth lack access to a safe educational environment.

We also support the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Javaid Rehman. We are grateful for his February 2023 report documenting the gross violations of human rights occurring in Iran including repression of women based on their clothing, use of lethal force against protestors, targeting of ethnic and religious minorities, indiscriminate killing of children, mass arrests of protestors, torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, including sexual and gender-based violence, and unjust executions of protestors in secret and without due process.

We support Mr. Rehman's call in July 2023 for an international inquiry into the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners that Mr. Raisi played a leading role in. There must be an end to the culture of impunity. For human rights and the rule of law to be honored and upheld, justice must be pursued diligently by all in the international community.

The US Women's Caucus stands in solidarity with those facing injustice everywhere, and we are committed to a just world where every person's human rights are affirmed, recognized, and respected.