

Dear Madam, Sir;

Ref: Letter of Introduction

17.10.2022

Iran has been ruled by the Islamic Republic since 1979.

After the establishment of a new constitution and penal code, women's rights have been degraded and Iranian women face discrimination and inequality in their daily lives.

The World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Gender Gap Report ranked Iran 140, out of 144 countries, for gender parity. Iranian females comprised 19% of the workforce in 2017. This represents a mere seven percent growth since 1990. In 2017, the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Index ranked Iran in the bottom tercile of 153 countries.

Iranian women face inequalities and discrimination in personal matters, such as marriage and divorce, child custody, and inheritance laws, as Iranian law only recognizes a man as the head of the household. Male siblings are entitled to twice the inheritance as their sisters. A husband has the right to decide, if he so chooses, to prevent his wife from seeking employment if he deems it to be against his values.

The inequality faced by Iranian women within the framework of the Islamic Republic has created a second-class tier for nearly half of the population. Iranian women cannot sing or dance in public and are banned from attending sports stadiums, and the simple pleasure of riding a bicycle in a park or a street has also been denied for Iranian women.

The wearing of an Islamic hejab is mandatory and enshrined in the constitution of the Islamic Republic. This should be a religious choice and a free choice. Women who do not respect this are arrested and face severe financial penalties, and some have been subjected to acid attacks. This law deprives all women of the authority and self-determination to choose what they would like to wear.

The recent and ongoing demonstrations sparked by the murder of Miss Mahsa Amini by the Islamic morality police of the Islamic Republic have led to calls for Women's Rights and equality. The Islamic Republic has responded with a deadly crackdown resulting in the deaths of many young Iranian girls and the arrest of many others.

Now the world has witnessed how unarmed Iranian women are being beaten, arrested, and killed for simply demonstrating for their freedom and rights as a woman in Iran.

The Association of Iranian Human Rights and Allies supports and stands in solidarity with Iranian women in their struggle for freedom, women's rights, and equality.

We aim to be their unheard voice as in most circumstances, the Islamic Republic silences their cries for freedom through arrests, threats as well as internet outages, and a media ban.

There have been many more deaths in the ongoing protests due to the heavy-handed crackdown, and yet the Iranian women have stood firm and steadfast in their cries for freedom.

We look forward to having opportunities for cooperation in becoming the voice of Iranian women in the U.K and beyond.

Kind Regards,

Dr. Nazak Tavakoli. (nazak.tavakoli@gmail.com)

Mrs. Azadeh Jassemi. (coaching@azadehjassemi.com)

Mr. Afshin Payravi. (apayravi@googlemail.com)

Dr. Nader Fallah. (nfallah@tiscali.co.uk)