

Call for Solidarity: Freedom and Gender Equality in Iran

Wednesday 10 February 2010, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 7 February 2010).

Over a month ago a group of Iranian women's activists called for all defenders of women's rights, women's organizations and networks to take action in support of the women's and civil rights movements in Iran, and to prepare measures of support and protest under the banner of "freedom and gender equality in Iran". They requested, in case of repression in Iran, that these organizations act as the voices across the world of their sisters in Iran, and in that way demonstrate solidarity with them. Thus far many women's and human rights organizations have responded to this appeal and some of them are planning events for March. Now the women of the world are calling to everyone to show solidarity with the people of Iran. Please join us. The names of individuals and organizations supporting the appeal and holding events will be announced as confirmed.

Show Your Support by Signing Our Statement Below

We (a group of Iranian feminists and women's rights activists) demand an end to state-led violence and repression, as well as the immediate release of all political detainees in Iran. We invite all women's rights defenders, activists, organisations, and networks worldwide to demonstrate their solidarity with the Iranian women's movement and the broader movement for democracy in Iran by organising initiatives under the slogan "freedom and gender equality in Iran" throughout March 2010.

Over the past thirty years, the Iranian women's movement has been at the forefront of the struggle for freedom and equality in Iran. Gender discrimination intersects with other forms of subordination - whether based on class, ethnicity, political orientation, religion, and so on. Thus, the peaceful resistance of women and men in defence of gender equality in all social spheres - legal, political, cultural, economical, etc. - has profoundly impacted the Iranian movement for democracy. Iranian women have long demanded freedom and gender equality; they have employed both individual and group strategies, initiated various campaigns, and faced insults, threats, arrests and imprisonment in the process. Many of these women are currently in prison.

Over the past eight months, the grass-roots protest movement that emerged following the disputed presidential elections has been suppressed by mounting violence. Physical and psychological violence - through arrest, torture, rape, extended imprisonment, and even execution - has been exercised against civil and political activists in Iran. As of now, numerous women activists from various movements - women's, workers, students, civil, and political - are detained and/or have received heavy sentences. The list of detainees grows everyday.

These circumstances, along with a new wave of arrests of women activists, have granted the

authorities space enough to expedite legislations of a further gender-discriminatory nature, such as the “Family Support Bill,” which aims to further limit women’s rights in the name of ‘strengthening’ the family. For the past thirty years, Iranian women have been subjected to a range of discriminations justified by the Sharia-derived laws. On the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), to which Iran is not a signatory, the women of Iran are facing increased discrimination. Fifteen years after the Fourth World Conference on Women and the drafting of the Beijing Platform for Action, in which the government of Iran participated, the Iranian government has yet to abide by its international obligations and work towards the elimination of discrimination against women.

During these critical times, the transnational solidarity of feminists and women’s rights activists with their Iranian counterparts is not only limited to the struggles of women; it also supports the broader movement for democracy in Iran. Various civil rights movements in Iran have long been in communication with both the transnational Iranian and the international communities. Global solidarity is crucial to giving voice to their repeated calls for freedom and equality in Iran.

We invite all women’s rights defenders, activists, organisations, and networks worldwide to demonstrate their solidarity with the Iranian women’s movement and the broader movement for democracy in Iran by organising initiatives under the slogan “freedom and gender equality in Iran” throughout March 2010.

Signatures:

http://www.irangenderequality.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22&Itemid=16

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http://www.irangenderequality.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1:call-for-solidarity-freedom-and-gender-equality-in-iran&catid=1:8-march-statements&Itemid=3