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Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Denial of women's freedoms and repression of women's rights protests in Iran – urgent political action is needed

Declaration adopted by the committee at its meeting in Strasbourg on 11 October 2022.

Denial of women's freedoms and repression of women's rights protests in Iran – urgent political action is needed

The Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination condemns the repression and denial of rights of Iranian women and girls and calls for an end to the state-led violent response to the uprising. It declares its support and solidarity with the courageous people of Iran who have taken to the streets to claim their rights and freedoms despite the risks.

The death of Mahsa Amini following her arrest sparked angry protests across the country, calling for more rights and a better future under the slogan "Women, Life, Freedom". These calls, however, were not heeded. On the contrary, they have been violently repressed, causing more deaths, arrests, and disappearances. News of the incidents has spread all over the planet and shown how dangerous it is to be a woman or a girl in Iran today. Europe's leaders must join their forces to denounce and combat such unacceptable threats to women's lives and violations of their freedoms.

Mahsa Amini died because she was considered improperly attired. Other women like Hadis Najafi and Nika Shakarami did not remain silent and were killed for protesting her death. This brutal and inhuman repression of legitimate demonstrations has made Iranian women's thirst for freedom, justice, and equality even stronger.

Iran's women and girls are the driving force behind the protests. We must not leave them alone. As parliamentarians, we must do everything in our power to help them, not only by showing solidarity and raising awareness of the situation in Iran, but also with concrete action. Dialogue with oppressed women in Iran must be established, reinforced, and maintained, and we must make sure that targeted assistance is provided.