



**Student Government Assembly**  
60 Washington Square S, Ste. 212  
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## Letter of Support Concerning Gender-Based Violence in Iran

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Date: March 2, 2023

To: NYU Senior Leadership Team

Dr. Andrew Hamilton, *President*

Dr. Linda Mills, *Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life*

CC: Concerned Parties

Steven Heuer, *Assistant Vice President for Government Affairs*

Rafael Rodriguez, *Associate Vice President & Dean of Students*

Chelsea I Garbell, *Acting Director, Global Spiritual Life*

Subject: Letter of Support Concerning Gender-Based Violence in Iran

Dear Leadership Team of New York University,

The Global Humanitarian Issues Committee (“GHI” or “Committee”) is calling for immediate action to help support Iranian protestors who first took to the streets in September, following the apprehension of protestors defending their human rights and fighting against the oppressive regime that took the life of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini.

GHI strongly opposes the sentencing and scheduled executions of protestors asserting their right to gather and express socio-political dissent against gender-based violence and state brutality. We affirm the right to protect political protest, freedom of speech, and support the provision of adequate legal representation for imprisoned persons. We stand together with protests in Iran and around the world working to change legal and social conditions that threaten the lives, flourishing, and livelihoods of women everywhere.

These state-sanctioned actions and reactionary instances of violence overwhelmingly affect young people and students, including the current investigation into the poisoning of young schoolgirls in the cities of Qom and Borujerd<sup>1</sup> dissenting against the hijab ban, as well as the targeting and attempted criminal charges from the Iranian Court against ten underage protestors

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<sup>1</sup> [Iranian officials to investigate ‘revenge’ poisoning of schoolgirls | Iran | The Guardian](#)



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in November<sup>2</sup>. The Iranian officials confirmed the average age of protestors sits at fifteen years of age with Amnesty International recording 50 minors that were killed by Iranian police<sup>3</sup>.

The Committee would like to remind the community that these events, while invoking the name of Islam, do not represent the religion and its tenets. Islam should never be weaponized and utilized against women and other marginalized identities to serve as a tool of oppression in any form.

We stand firmly against the cruel and unjust nature of this legal, physical, and emotional violence and acknowledge the mental distress this places on many members in our community—especially our Persian, Kurdish, and Muslim constituents.

Since January, four protestors have been executed<sup>4</sup>, and more than 15,000 people<sup>5</sup> (an estimate provided last November by the Human Rights Activists News Agency<sup>6</sup>) have been detained; protests continue to swell in response to the injustice. As members of a global university, it is our duty to speak out against those heinous acts of violence and provide our affected communities with the support necessary.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202211303156>

<sup>3</sup> [Iran Unleashes Its Wrath on Its Children for Joining Protests - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/30/world/middleeast/iran-protests.html)

<sup>4</sup> [Overnight protests rock Tehran, other Iranian cities, videos show | Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/overnight-protests-rock-tehran-other-iranian-cities-videos-show-2022-11-30/)

<sup>5</sup> [Fact Check-Confusion spreads online about 15,000 people detained in Iran | Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/fact-check-confusion-spreads-online-about-15000-people-detained-in-iran-2022-11-30/)

<sup>6</sup> [Home - Hrana \(en-hrana.org\)](https://www.hrana.org/)



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The Committee asks that the University follows through on these asks to acknowledge and prioritize students within these communities, and for future tragedies:

- Create mental health services tailored to cultures and religions represented on campus;
- Immediately begin allocating and furnish more prayer spaces for Muslim students across the university in accessible locations in preparation for Ramadan, Eid, and all gathering needs;
- Assessing and prioritizing the financial needs of Iranian students who may have experienced financial instability as a result of inflation, significant devaluation of the rial, and civil unrest.<sup>7</sup>

We thank you for your support of our Persian, Kurdish and Muslim communities on campus and appreciate your continued commitment to supporting our students.

*Sarah Abdalla, Global Humanitarian Issues Committee Chair, and the Global Humanitarian Issues Committee*

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<sup>7</sup> [Iran's currency slides to record low as savers buy dollars](#)