**Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

**Thursday 23 January 2024, 14:30 – 18:00**

**Speaking time: 65 seconds**

**Statement by Iceland (no 78 of 111)**

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its national report.

In a constructive spirit, Iceland recommends the following:

1. Abolish the death penalty.
2. Cease all executions pending the abolition of the death penalty.
3. Share comprehensive data on the death penalty and executions with the UN.
4. Repeal the ‘Hijab and Chastity’ law and all other laws enforcing compulsory veiling and discriminatory dress codes.
5. Criminalize all forms of GBV and guarantee accountability for all GBV acts, including state-sponsored violence.
6. Decriminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults.
7. Ensure that persons of diverse SOGIESC are not subjected to electric shocks and other forms of torture.

I wish Iran all success for its review.

I thank you.

**Recommendations + sources**

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| **Death Penalty** Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. | **Compilation of UN information**  11. AI noted that since the previous UPR, at least 2,311 people had been executed.14 JS18 also stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran had increased the frequency of executions over the last five years, including executing 834 individuals in 2023, which represented a 43 per cent increase in executions since 2022, a year that witnessed 582 executions.15 AI highlighted that the authorities had increasingly used the death penalty as a tool of repression against protesters, dissidents and ethnic minorities to sow fear, stifle dissent and deter further protests. 16 JS18 also stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran disproportionately executed members of ethnic minority groups for drug-related offenses.17 JS7 stated that the authorities had frequently imposed the death penalty against minors and had executed them when they turned 18 or, occasionally, before.18 |
| **Death penalty** Abolish the use of the death penalty immediately, particularly as a means of repression, including against women and persons of diverse SOGIESC. | **Compilation of UN Information**  14. JS17 highlighted that human rights defenders, journalists, activists, and those exercising their human rights to freedom of expression were subjected to severe penalties, including long prison sentences, flogging, and even capital punishment, following unfair trials disregarding the most basic guarantees of fair trial and due process.21 FLD stated that since its last UPR review in 2019, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders continued to be subjected to severe reprisals as a result of their legitimate work. They continued to face digital and physical threats, legal harassment, arbitrary arrest, detention, long and recurring prison sentences, targeting family members, denial of rights to education and work, and inhuman treatment under detention, which in some cases had ended in their deaths.22 JS2 expressed deep concern about the systematic misuse of the criminal justice system to punish and retaliate against human rights defenders, journalists and protesters, including through the use of the death penalty to punish and deter peaceful human rights work.23 JS5 also highlighted that during and after the “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement, Iranian authorities intensified their crackdown on women human rights defenders, targeting independent hubs, groups, safe houses, and shelters.24 |
| **Gender**  Repeal the ‘Hijab and Chastity’ law and all other laws enforcing compulsory veiling and discriminatory dress codes (and ensure women and girls can exercise their rights to freedom of expression, religion and belief without fear of violence or persecution) | **Stakeholders’ submissions**  55. JS10 stated that discrimination and exclusion found in the Constitution and the Iranian legal framework were further institutionalized through and reinforced by countless regulations, guidelines and policies sanctioning the severe deprivation of human rights and the pervasive policing of women’s and girls’ conduct and choices. Regulations and laws mandating the compulsory veil and other dress requirements had been used as a key tool of the Government to control and subjugate women and girls. The authorities targeted women and girls through arbitrary arrests and detention, prosecution and sentencing, and through the denial of their rights to education, employment, freedom of movement, health and access to justice. |
| **Gender**  Adopt and implement comprehensive legislation to criminalize all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence, marital rape, and female genital mutilation. | **Stakeholders’ submissions**  60. JS13 also recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran adopt legislation to criminalize rape and sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence and marital rape in line with international law and standards and ensure accountability for violence against women, including when committed by state agents.106 JS6 recommended that the Government enact a law that explicitly prohibits all forms of female genital mutilations in the country.107 |
| **Gender**  Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 without exceptions and take urgent measures to end child, early, and forced marriage. | **Stakeholders’ Submissions**  36. JS6 noted that the minimum age of marriage was set at 13 for girls and 15 for boys.67 JS6 and IKSS recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran enact a law that specifies the minimum age of marriage for both girls and boys as 18 without exception.68  38. JS6 stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran had failed to take adequate steps to end child, early, and forced marriage, all of which facilitated increased rates of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls. 70 |
| **Gender**  Eliminate all forms of legal and systematic discrimination against women and amend discriminatory laws and regulations to ensure equal rights for women in both public and private life.  EÐA  Amend discriminatory laws and regulations to ensure women have equal rights in marriage, divorce, inheritance, custody, and nationality, and eliminate legal restrictions on women’s movement. | **Stakehoders’ Submissions**  JS7 highlighted that women had been treated as secondclass individuals in law and practice. Discriminatory legal provisions deprived women of equal rights in many areas, including with regard to: control over their own body; marriage; divorce; custody of their children; inheritance; nationality; freedom of movement; access to employment; and participation in public affairs. Furthermore, child and forced marriage involving women and girls were widespread and had long been ignored by the authorities.98 AI noted similar concerns. 99 |
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| **Gender**  Decriminalize abortion, repeal laws restricting access to safe abortion and voluntary sterilization, and ensure access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. | **Stakeholders’ Submissions**  46. AHRAI stated that the Youthful Population and Protection of the Family Law significantly deteriorated the rights of women and girls but also men to sexual and reproductive health, which prohibited the free distribution of contraceptives in the public health care system and limited access to contraceptives in pharmacies, imposed a ban on A7 voluntary sterilization for men and women, enacted a policy of restricting access to information on family planning, and further criminalized abortion for both women and medicals. A medical doctor who performs an abortion for the fourth time would face the death penalty.83 JS6 and HRAI noted similar concerns.84 |
| **Gender**  Amend Article 301 of the Islamic Penal Code to eliminate exemptions and impunity for perpetrators of honor killings and ensure accountability for all acts of gender-based violence, including state-sponsored violence. | **Stakeholders’ Submissions**  56. JS6 highlighted that for decades, legal and systematic discrimination against women had led to women being one of the most significant forces of resistance and change. They had consistently been suppressed in political and social arenas, more than other groups. Women’s efforts had publicly exposed ongoing discrimination, oppression, and injustice. This struggle had caused women to face serious risks and costs, including detention, imprisonment, house arrest, internal exile, travel bans, state-sponsored sexual and gender-based violence, and social pressure.97  57. JS7 stated that honour killings had continued to be committed exclusively against women with impunity, because Article 301 of the Islamic Penal Code exempted “fathers and paternal grandfathers” from severe punishment for the killing of their children or grandchildren, and granted full impunity to husbands for killing their wives if caught in the act of adultery.100 UNDUPRAC expressed similar concerns.101 |
| **SOGI**  Decriminalize same-sex conduct and remove the death penalty and flogging for same-sex relations between consenting adults. | **ILGA**  1. Fully decriminalise same-sex conduct, remove the death penalty and flogging for consensual same-sex relations among adults, and repeal all laws criminalizing non-conforming gender identities and expressions. |
| **SOGI**  Repeal all laws criminalizing non-conforming gender identities and expressions. | **ILGA**  1. Fully decriminalise same-sex conduct, remove the death penalty and flogging for consensual same-sex relations among adults, and repeal all laws criminalizing non-conforming gender identities and expressions. |
| **SOGI**  Ban all forms of conversion therapies. | ILGA  2. Ban all forms of conversion therapies, including electroshock therapy, antipsychotic drugs, and any forced or involuntary psychological, medical, or surgical procedures aimed at changing sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics without free, prior, and informed consent. |
| **SOGI**  Release all advocates for SOGIESC diversity immediately, end their persecution and harassment, and hold perpetrators of gender-based and human rights violations accountable. | ILGA  4. Release LGBTI+ activists and human rights defenders immediately, and stop the persecution and harassment of advocates for SOGIESC diversity and gender rights.  5. Prosecute and punish perpetrators of human rights violations and gender-based persecution against LGBTI+ persons who participated in protests. |