



IRAN TRANSITION COUNCIL (ITC)

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Open Letter and demand to the UN Secretary-General, UN Women Directors, UN Watch, UN Special Reporter, European Countries and International Human Right Organizations**

Your Excellencies,

Islamic Republic of Iran has been appointed to the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women. According to the United Nation website<sup>1</sup> this commission has the responsibility to supervise women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Amnesty International's 2020 report on Iran's treatment of women<sup>2</sup> (page 193) reports that women continued to face entrenched discrimination in law, including in relation to marriage, divorce, employment, inheritance and political office. This report clearly emphasizes that morality police in Iran subject millions of women and girls to daily harassment and violent attacks amounting to torture and other ill-treatment.

Another international report is The Global Gender Gap Index 2021 rankings, which places Islamic Republic of Iran in position of number 150 among 156 countries. That clearly pictures the situation of women in Islamic Republic of Iran.

Additionally Amnesty International<sup>3</sup> report places Islamic Republic of Iran has the highest rate of execution of women and children internationally.

It seems very controversial that Islamic Republic of Iran being pointed out by the international reports as a country with drastic violation of both human rights and women's right is elected to this UN commission and position.

The crucial question, which forced us to write this letter, is the search for the criteria behind appointing Islamic Republic of Iran to this position.

The fact that Islamic Republic of Iran won 43 votes to be elected to the Commission on the Status of Women means that at least four out of 15 EU and Western group democracies at the UN Economic and Social Council did vote for Iran. We kindly request their name to be revealed to the public.

Iranian women and women all over the world expect the International community to respect human rights and women rights and to be abide by the defined principles of the International conventions. Human rights violator such as Iranian regime are expected to be boycott or isolated and not to be prized.

It needs to be mentioned that this decision can destroy the Iranian women's trust to the United Nation and international institutions. The message that this type of decisions can convey to the women worldwide is a contradictory message.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/3202/2021/en/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/04/death-penalty-in-2020-facts-and-figures/>

When Islamic Republic of Iran has been appointed to this position then it is time to require or force Islamic Republic of Iran to make serious commitments to international conventions on gender equality, particularly in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform and becoming a party to CEDAW and 2030 Agenda.

We express our protest and disappointment with regard to this decision. We are waiting for an explanation from United Nation.

Iranian women deserve an apology or at least an explanation from United Nation and International community.

Best Regards  
Golaleh Sharafkandi  
Iran Transition Council (ITC)  
Women and Gender Equality Commission

**CC :**

Honorable **António Guterres**  
United Nations Secretary-General

Honorable **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**  
Executive Director, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

Honorable **Åsa Regnér**  
Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations

Honorable **Michelle Bachelet**  
Former Executive Director of UN Women  
Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

Honorable **Hillel Neuer**  
Executive Director of UN Watch

Honorable **Javaid Rehman**  
UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Honorable **Irwin Cotler**  
Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Right

Human Right Organisations

Gender Equality Organisations

European Countries

European Parliament Members