



STATEMENT ON IRAN

Content Warning: Death

September 30, 2022

We, the York Federation of Students, would like to extend our support to the people of Iran following the death of Mahsa Amini and many protesters. On September 16th, 2022, Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman, passed away while in the custody of Iran's "morality police" due to an accusation of violating the strict modesty laws; it is widely believed that she was a victim of police brutality and violence. Mahsa's death has sparked several days of protests and demonstrations that have resulted in the death of over 70 protesters through the violence of the Iranian police force. These protests are largely aimed at the Iranian government and the strict laws and regulations enforced on the Iranian people, particularly the laws that strip women of their rights to choice, bodily autonomy, and independence.

These blatant violations of human rights far precede the most recent events. Large-scale protests and riots have been taking place since 2019, however, the recent actions of the Iranian government point to a dangerous increase in the lack of acknowledgement of women's rights and autonomy. From clothing, to education, to employment, globally, women deserve the right to liberation and self-determination.

Additionally, it is necessary that we acknowledge the harmful effects of foreign intervention and government sanctions, especially from Western states such as so-called Canada and the so-called United States of America. These large economic sanctions typically cause harm to the most marginalized communities while failing to truly aid in the fight for justice. The working class, queer folks, women, and ethnic minorities of Iran are most likely to feel the negative ramifications of these sanctions, further highlighting that decisions made by external governments often only serve to further their own economic or imperial gain.

Raising awareness of the realities that the people of Iran continue to endure is essential, especially as access to the internet continues to be limited due to censorship attempts being made by the Iranian government.



International solidarity is of the utmost importance; the York Federation of Students reaffirms its genuine support for oppressed peoples globally. As the central undergraduate students' union, we are firm in our commitment to the opposition of all forms of state-sanctioned violence and oppression. We support the ability and necessity of protest and revolutionary action. We strongly encourage folks to listen and amplify the voices of the Iranian community and to provide support through genuine solidarity and joint struggle.

We recognize these times have been difficult for Iranian students at York University and the community as a whole; please feel free to utilize this [resource](#) to learn more, and reach out to us if you are in need of support.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the YFS President, Adaeze Mbalaja, at president@yfs.ca.