

**Forum:** United Nations Human Rights Council

**Issue:** Combating the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic Of Iran, especially with regards to women and children.

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## Introduction

The Islamic Public Of Iran is a country with a deep and rich history. However, the country has long been a subject of human rights, characterized by systemic discrimination against minorities, women, and children in respect to family law, personal freedoms, and adequate legal protection. Beyond this, Iran has faced mass censorship, the suppression of freedom of speech via harassment and arbitrary arrests are commonly practiced by law.

Iran has remained a subject of ongoing diplomacy and human rights, there have been many efforts aimed at reforms and improvements to the political landscape, however challenges persisted, achieving meaningful change remains a contentious and complex endeavor.

Delegates of UNHRC will be tasked with delving into the complex and dynamic political landscape of The Islamic Republic Of Iran with respect to human rights and freedoms, especially with that of women and children, and find solutions to said situations using diplomacy.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Sharia Law

**Sharia Law** is a system of religious law that is derived from the values of Islam, particularly in respect to The Holy Quran and Hadith. Sharia law remains the basis of human rights laws in most countries with a majority Islamic population.

### Child Labor

**Child labor** is a form of exploitation of the youth. employing them at a young age, usually with minimal pay in harsh conditions. This prevents children from attending schools, and

experiencing a childhood. This has been shown to be a mental or physical deterrent to these children's lives and development.

## **Censorship**

**Censorship** is the suppression of information, spoken or otherwise, especially in regards to freedom of speech. In relation to human rights, censorship allows governments to continue practicing injustice on the population, and preventing them from speaking out. This can be done with arbitrary arrests, as well as the classification of information, online or otherwise.

## **The Death Penalty**

**The Death Penalty**, also known as capital punishment, is the practice of taking the life of a person as punishment for a crime by law, and sanctioned by the state.

## **Freedom Of Speech**

**Freedom Of Speech** is an individual's or community's right to speak their ideals or opinions without the threat of legal action, legal sanctions, or any form of retaliation.

# **Background Information**

## **Historical context and the challenges faced today**

After the Islamic revolution in 1979, The Republic Of Iran went through many societal and political changes. The government began to implement a new and strict body of Islamic Law that led to restrictions in women's rights and freedoms. Women faces restrictions in education and employment, as well as having a law sanctioning and endorsing a dress code for all women in public, making it mandatory to wear a hijab when out of their home. Furthermore, children had become neglected in regards to rights. Iran has faced concerns with harsh child labor, arbitrarily long prison sentences or the employment of capital punishment on the youth, and the discrimination of children from minorities. Iran has continued to face criticism for its human rights practices. Activism is larger than ever in the nation, causing the government to crack down on censorship and suppressing freedom of speech as of 2009.

## **Major Countries and Organizations Involved**

## **United States**

The United States has been shown to be a vocal advocate of improvements in the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic Of Iran, imposing sanctions and restrictions on Iranian officials involved and the abuse of human rights, and supported many advocacy efforts aimed at improving human rights.

## **European Union**

The EU has raised concerns on Human rights in Iran and advocated for improvements, especially pertaining to women and children through diplomacy and negotiations. Like the US, the EU has imposed sanctions on Iranian officials responsible for violations of human rights.

## **Human Rights Watch**

The Human Rights Watch has been extensively involved in Iran's human rights, conducting research and publishing many reports on the conditions and political landscape of the nation, staying up to date with current events, and advocates for reforms.

## **United nations**

The UN, through any mechanism at their disposal has been monitoring and criticizing human rights issues in Iran, issuing resolutions and reports on the situation at hand.

## **Amnesty International**

An international association and defender of human rights, Amnesty International has consistently reported and documented issues of human rights in The Islamic Republic Of Iran, calling for international intervention and advocacy campaigns.

## **Timeline of Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of event</b>
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1979	-Establishment of the Islamic Republic.
1983	-Introduction of mandatory hijab sanctions. -Reports of child labor and international scrutiny begins to rise.
1990s-2000s	-The presidential election protests take place, causing a crackdown on freedom of speech and activism.
2009	-Juvenile justice concerns are exacerbated with arbitrary arrests and capital punishment against minors.
2010s	
2020-2023	-Arbitrary arrests against activism and plans for digital monitoring to be put in place.

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

Please do use either British or American spelling throughout your Research Report. When listing past UN Resolutions, it is suggested that you make use of bullet points and the specified format below:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) June 24, 1975
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) June 24, 1975
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) July 13, 1994
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) March 6, 1985
- Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) June 24, 1975
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) March 6, 1968

## International Diplomacy and Pressure

Engage in diplomatic efforts to raise human rights concerns in bilateral and multilateral forums.

## Monitor and Report

Strengthen international monitoring mechanisms to assess the human rights situation in Iran, with a particular focus on women and children.

## Support a Civil Society

Provide financial and logistical support to Iranian civil society organizations and human rights defenders working to promote women's and children's rights. Encourage international NGOs to collaborate with local activists to maximize impact.

## **Humanitarian Aid**

Provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations, including children and women, who may be impacted by economic or political sanctions.

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