

ECOSOC
Study Guide 2022



Topic:

Addressing the Human Rights Crisis in Iran

Head Chair: Marcela Pizzato

A letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

I am pleased to be heading this committee because I know that it is a middle school committee, and the vast majority of you have never been to a conference before. Thus, it is my pleasure to welcome you and guide you through this experience and into the world of MUN. I truly hope that you find it as pleasurable as I have found it to be in the past years. This committee also holds special significance to me because it is my first time being a chair, therefore, we will both be getting used to this new adventure together.

Although I am aware that many do not have previous experiences in a conference, I am still hoping that debates are fruitful and that everyone tries their best to participate. After all, there is a learning experience, and the best thing you can do is try to engage in the debate so you can learn how to approach it in future conferences. The topics at hand are very current, therefore it is possible that some information will be confusing and that others will be hard to come by. In that case, I strongly encourage you to reach out and ask for advice, whether it be during the debate or while you are still writing your position papers, I will always be here to guide you through the process. I also recognize that some countries have less information on their stance on this topic than others, and I will be considering that during the debate.

As your chair, I will be striving to make it so that you can get the most out of this debate, whether that be through learning and gaining more knowledge on the MUN procedure and the topic in general, or simply by having a fun time. At the same time, I hope that you do your part

and try your best during this debate by being prepared and eager to participate. I am sure that by working together, we will be able to make the best out of this debate and enjoy ourselves.

Sincerely,

Marcela Pizzato.

Committee Description

The ECOSOC committee was established on June 26, 1945, as one of the six main organs of the United Nations. According to the UN Charter, the committee's purpose is to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and social progress and to identify solutions to international economic, social, and health issues, thus facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation while encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms (UN). The council oversees a system of subsidiary bodies, containing regional commissions, functional commissions and expert bodies, standing committees, and ad hoc bodies.

Regarding the topic at hand, the ECOSOC aims to call for sustainable action to ensure that human rights are being met and that there is a track towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, which in this case are in danger when it comes to gender equality and peace, justice and strong institutions.

Being that the ECOSOC is a recommendatory committee, actions can not be taken from the resolutions made, as they will be passed on to the GA, Member States, and specialized agencies. It is important to recognize that Iraq, Iran, and Syria are not actual members of the ECOSOC, however, for the sake of the debate, they will be allowed to write a resolution.

Taking all of this into account, the goal of this committee is for delegates to write a resolution that addresses the issue being discussed and calls action to resolve it based on the aforementioned ECOSOC purpose.

Background

Starting September 16th, 2022, an ongoing series of protests and civil unrest took place in Tehran, the capital of Iran. The protests against the Iranian government were instigated after Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old girl died after being arrested by Guidance Patrol due to wearing a hijab deemed improper, which violates Iran's mandatory hijab law. Eyewitnesses state that Amini was severely beaten by the Guidance Patrol officer, a statement denied by Iranian authorities. The killing of hundreds of protesters fueled the public's anger. The protests aim to protect civil, political, and women's rights, revoke religious requirements of the hijab, dissolve the Guidance Patrol, and prosecute the killers of Mahsa Amini.

Guidance Patrol

Also known as the Morality Police or Islamic religious police, is a vice squad (group that tends to practice immoral or taboo behavior) established in 2005 with the job of arresting those who violate the Islamic dress code. They are covered in the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their tasks usually have to do with women covering their hair with hijabs.

Hijab

A head covering worn by some Muslim women. Since the 1979 Iranian revolution, Iranian law requires women to wear hijabs covering their head, neck, and concealing their hair.

Current Situation

Protests are quickly spreading among Iranian provinces. In reaction to the demonstrations, the Iranian government implemented regional shutdowns of internet access, causing a widespread internet blackout with nationwide restrictions on social media. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's Supreme Leader has accused Israel and the United States of provoking this uprising. The Iranian government has a history of violently ending protests, many led by women wanting to overthrow the Islamic Republic. Iran Human Rights, a non-profit organization, has

stated as of November 12, 2022, that at least 326 people were killed in protests, 43 being children, due to government intervention, which involved tear gas and gunfire. Drivers have blocked the streets to slow down security forces, roads have been blocked streets with dumpster bins, and protesters have been marked with paint to be later identified by authorities, causing public security cameras to be dismantled. The protests have also involved symbolic actions such as women burning hijabs. Several human rights concerns are being raised, and on September 27, António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, issued a statement calling for Iranian forces to refrain from using unnecessary or disproportionate force".

Bloc Positions

Iran: Iranian authorities are attempting to stop protests by preventing people from coming together. They have begun to rely on the Basij to enforce order on protestors. They still maintain their internet black out and are able to track and identify protesters through phone's GPS. Forces confessions, family member threats, and torture according to CNN interviews.

USA: President Joe Biden has stated that he is stunned by the mass protests going on and declared that the United States stands with Iran's "brave women". The treasury department has imposed sanctions to and taken steps so that the Iranian public is able to access information online. However, the United States is not likely to take tough actions on the matter as they still hope for a new nuclear deal with Tehran.

UK: Has stated in the UN committee that the delegation deplores the violent suppression of women's rights and that the Iranian people have suffered enough. The delegation also has imposed sanctions on the Morality police and called for violent crackdowns on protests to immediately stop.

Canada: Stands with protesters and announces sanctions due to the violation of human rights in the country, targeting four entities and six individuals, one being Iran's deputy interior minister Majid Mirahmadi. Additionally the country has designated Iran as a regime, banning senior Iranian Officials from entering Canada.

Germany: German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, has stated that he is disgusted by the violent interventions on the protests and that Germany stands with the Iranian people. Along with the EU, Germany has imposed a package of sanctions on Iranian organizations and individuals due to human rights violations.

France: President Emmanuel Macron has congratulated Iranian women on the "revolution" they are leading. The country condemns the violent repressions. The Islamic republic has claimed to arrest French intelligence officers amid protests and thus France has accused Iran of threatening their nationals.

Denmark: Protests have taken place outside of Copenhagen's Iranian embassy, causing an assailant to be threatened with a weapon by an Iranian citizen. After this attack, Iran has been censoring Denmark's reports. The country has joined the EU's sanctions imposed in Iran.

Italy: Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has praised women in the “revolution” they are leading. A young Italian woman has been arrested in Iran amid protests.

Australia: Penny Wong, Foreign Minister, has condemned the use of force against protesters in Iran. The FM also calls for Iranian Authorities to respect protesters rights. The country is yet to impose sanctions.

Iraq: Is close trading partners with Iran. The countries are close allies and operate under the same Shi'ite system of government. Iraq, however, does not have forced hijab laws.

Syria: Is a strategic ally with Iran, being that Iran has previously supported Syria in its civil war. They share animosity towards the United States.

Afghanistan: Is a major trading partner with Iran. Protests in favor of Iranian women have been disrupted in the country. Hijab's are mandatory by law in Afghanistan.

Important Resources

-<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/03/world/middleeast/iran-ayatollah-khameini-protests.html>

-<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/10/iran-protests-reports-child-deaths-detentions-are-deeply-worrying>

-<https://www.mei.edu/publications/where-uss-red-line-irans-protests>

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-iranian-people-have-suffered-enough-uk-statement-at-un>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/19/canada-to-host-meeting-on-iran-protests-for-worlds-female-foreign-ministers>
- <https://www.dw.com/en/is-germany-doing-enough-to-support-iran-protesters/a-63754653>

References

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- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130457>
- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/10/1129937>