



## **Violence against women is violence against humanity and a grave violation of human rights**

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is a global call for solidarity in confronting all forms of violence—physical, psychological, sexual, economic, structural, and those rooted in harmful cultural or religious practices. It is a day to reaffirm women’s fundamental rights to safety, dignity, and freedom in both public and private spheres across all societies.

In Iran, this day exposes a bitter and painful truth: violence against women is not only widespread, but it is entrenched and protected by the ruling religious regime. In a system where discriminatory laws provide perpetrators with religious and legal cover, violence has reached catastrophic levels. According to the 2024 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran, at least 179 femicides were recorded. Women’s rights activists report that femicides have risen sharply in 2025. Under these medieval laws, immediate family members, particularly fathers who murder their daughters are shielded from serious legal consequences.

Violence against women in Iran is not an isolated or private matter; it is structural, institutionalized, and systematically reproduced by the Islamic Republic. Discriminatory Islamic laws in the labor market, compulsory hijab, state repression, mass arrests of civic, political, and labor activists, honor killings, and femicide are all manifestations of official state policies that perpetuate misogyny and deepen violence in society.

Yet the Iranian women’s movement—most recently through the revolutionary uprising *Woman, Life, Freedom*—has shown extraordinary resilience and agency. For decades, Iranian women have demonstrated that the struggle against violence and discrimination is inseparable from the struggle for equality, freedom, and the dismantling of religious authoritarianism. Despite repression, imprisonment, and threats, women in Iran stand at the forefront of the fight for choice, dignity, and a life free from oppression.



The Trade Union Platform - Iran affirms that without gender equality, without the liberation of women, and without their full and active participation in shaping society, sustainable democracy is impossible.

We strongly condemn the systematic, state-sanctioned policies of discrimination, misogyny, and violence against women in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Violence against women is violence against humanity.**

**Freedom and democracy can only emerge where women are free.**

**Trade Union Platform - Iran**

Stockholm, 24 November 2025