

IMPACT IRAN

At the UN, states urged Iran to stop child execution, address women's rights issues and other long-standing rights violations

Geneva, 8 November 2019 – UN member states raised alarm today at violence and discrimination against women, juvenile executions, and child marriage among other violations of Iran's human rights obligations and called on Iran to take decisive action to uphold its human rights obligations.

The situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran was under review this morning in Geneva, as the country was undertaking its third Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a peer-review mechanism where UN member states are invited to discuss the situation of human rights in the country and to make recommendations to the Iranian government.

Human rights coalition [Impact Iran](#) declared that *"today, the community of states sent a clear message that executions of juveniles, child marriage and keeping women out of the economic, social, public and political life are not acceptable in 2019"*.

111 states from all continents participated in the review at the United Nations in Geneva. Among them, many made recommendations on the situation of women and girls in the country, with 25 states from all regions calling on Iran to ratify the CEDAW. The participation of women in economic, public and political life was also a recurrent issue for states. In addition, there was a particular emphasis on the situation of women's human rights defenders who have been subject to a crack down in the past few months.

Calls for Iran to outlaw and prevent child marriage, by raising the minimum age for girls, also came back repeatedly during the review from African, Latin American and European states.

As in previous UPR, many states expressed concern at the high rate of executions in Iran. While the lack of fair trial guarantees and the vagueness and high number of capital offense were mentioned by states, the issue of execution of individuals who were below 18 at the time of the alleged crime stood out as the most addressed, with 29 states making specific references to that practice forbidden under human rights treaties Iran has ratified.

During the dialogue, many states additionally raised concern at the situation of religious minorities, of ethnic minorities and of LGBT+ Iranians. The many obstacles placed to the independent work of journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders were also raised repeatedly.

Impact Iran calls on government of Iran to demonstrate political will to uphold its human rights obligations by accepting without reservations the overwhelming majority of recommendations that merely reflect its human rights obligations under the human rights treaties it has signed and ratified.

“Today must serve as a wake-up call for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iranian authorities now need to deliver on overdue human rights reforms. Such reforms are required to put Iran in conformity with its international obligations, to respect the demands frequently expressed by its population, and to answer states’ call for tangible improvement” said Impact Iran.