

## **Gender Apartheid in Iran**

Laws and policies in Iran establish and maintain male and state domination over women. Systemic gender inequality is clearly outlined in law and enforced by the regime which denied women the "right to life and liberty" and "fundamental human rights and liberties", under Article II of the United Nations Apartheid Convention in 1973.

For forty years ago, Iranian women have been fighting on the path against misogyny, in specific legislation that prevented women from attending soccer games. Recently, the racism in football experienced by Iranian women has been highlighted by the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Despite FIFA holding a firm stance in demanding Iran to end its gender apartheid or else the Iranian national team would not be eligible in the participation of the World Cup. However, the Iranian government remained intransigent on the issue – with the judiciary announcing no change in policies.

In response, protests have sprung up around the world against the Iranian regime. Notably, on November 14, 2022, a group of 22 Iranian women played football in Westminster during a protest. Unrest continued to flare across Iran on September 21, 2022, following the death of a 22-year-old Iranian woman of Kurdish origin who died after being arrested by an Iranian deputy police officer and allegedly beaten.

As the SOCHUM, it is our responsibility to uphold the UN's Declaration of Human Rights and address the endangered rights of equality for women in Iran. The committee will have to balance this inviolable right with Iran's right to national sovereignty and other limiting factors. SOCHUM strives to provide pragmatic and immediate policies to redress this pressing issue.