

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1049

TITLE: Resolution in Solidarity With the Women of Iran

AUTHOR(S): Senator Danny Wolcott

SPONSOR(S): Deputy Minority Leader Gabriela Montes, Senator Jonathan C. Stephens, Senator Ibrahim Siddiqui, Senator Nathan McGinnis, Senator Katie Holmes, Senator Anjali Natarajan, Senator Navya Nair, Senator Joaquin Rafaele Cecilia Marcelino, Senator Evan Asuncion, Senator John Rassel

WHEREAS, Mahsa Amini was killed by the Iranian Morality Police for not properly adhering to Iran's dress regulations in September of 2022 [7], and

WHEREAS, the women of Iran have been bravely protesting daily for their rights and freedoms since September 17th, 2022 [1], and

WHEREAS, the government of Iran regulates the dress of all women in the country and requires full head coverage [6], and

WHEREAS, over 200 Iranian protesters have died while protesting the abuses of the theocratic Iranian regime [1], and

WHEREAS, the government of Iran has censored online expression in order to stop protests and stifle free speech [2], and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida values Freedom, Civility, and Inclusion as core values of the institution [3], and

WHEREAS, the hijab is a symbol of religious expression for many Muslim individuals [5], and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is home to many students and faculty of both Iranian origin and of Muslim faith regardless of nationality, and

WHEREAS, dozens of members of the University of Florida community gathered on October 20th, 2022, to express support for the women of Iran [4],

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate stands in solidarity with the women of Iran and women facing persecution globally as they fight for their right to freely express themselves, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the rights of all people to express themselves through their clothing without fear of harm or violence, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the University to develop programs for Iranian students that help to provide protections, mental health support, and financial assistance to those affected by the circumstances in Iran, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the University to implement more coursework regarding Persian studies in order to facilitate education and communication surrounding Iranian culture.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President Kent Fuchs, Women's Student Association President Brenda Sanchez, Iranian Student Association President Reza Esmaeeli, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Navid Asadi, Executive Director of the University of Florida International Center Susanne Hill.

[1]<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/human-rights-group-reports-233-deaths-in-iran-as-protests-enter-5th-week>

[2]<https://news.sky.com/story/iran-protests-government-uses-internet-kill-switch-as-tech-savvy-youth-continue-to-evade-digital-censorship-12723012>

[3]<https://www.ufl.edu/about/core-values/>

[4]<https://www.facebook.com/ISAatUF/>

[5]<https://clarkchronicle.com/features/2022/02/01/the-meaning-behind-the-hijab-and-what-it-signifies-for-muslim-girls/>

[6]<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/10/28/womens-rights-iran>

[7]<https://time.com/6216513/mahsa-amini-iran-protests-police/>



Olivia Green
Senate President

10/31/2022
Date