



## **Resolution on Human Rights and Freedom of Speech and Expression in Iran**

Whereas the killing of Mahsa Amini a young woman, in the custody of the Morality Police of Islamic Republic of Iran on September 16, 2022, has sparked widespread protests in Iran for efforts for human rights, including women's rights, freedom of speech and expression, and self-determination under the slogan "Zan, Zendegi, Azadi"- "Women, Life, Freedom" (Moaveni, 2022);

Whereas the crackdown by the government and aligned entities has resulted in the killing of hundreds of people, including other young women such as Hadis Najafi and teenage girls Nika Shakarami and Sarina Esmailzadeh and nine-year old boy Kian Piralak; (Mezzofiore, Polglase, & Pourahmadi, 2022; Ghobadi, 2022; Dehghanpisheh, 2022; VOA Persian, 2023; Engelbrecht, 2022; Simon, 2023);

Whereas, thousands of protesters, including librarian, teachers, and authors have been arrested for advocating for human rights and free expression (VOA Persian, 2023);

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran initially shut down, and continues to censor and restrict access to the Internet to paralyze the protests and stop the flow of information about the protests and the respective killings to the outside world; (US Department of State & The Freedom Online Coalition, 2022);

Whereas with the vote of the members of U.N. Economic and Social Council the Islamic Republic of Iran was "removed with immediate effect from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)" on December 14, 2022 (Nichols, 2022);

Whereas the United States Government has imposed and tightened sanctions against the Iranian officials and entities who are responsible for the ongoing crackdown on protests and Internet censorship (US Department of State, 2022);

Whereas the ALA through the Executive Board, made a statement on December 9, 2022, supporting Iranian colleagues and the people of Iran in their efforts for human rights, including women's rights and freedom of speech and expression;

Whereas ALA Policy B.6.2.2 states "threats to the freedom of expression of any person become threats to the freedom of all; therefore, ALA adopts as policy the principles of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The Association will address the grievances of foreign nationals where the infringement of their rights of free expression is clearly a matter in which all free people should show concern."; now, therefore, be it



*Resolved*, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members

1. stands with the people of Iran and supports their efforts for achieving human rights, women's rights, freedom of speech and expression, and self-determination;
2. condemns acts of violence and censorship by the Islamic Republic of Iran;
3. encourages the United States government and international organizations to support the people of Iran; and
4. supports efforts providing resources, tools, educational materials, and other forms of assistance that help Iranians and Iranian librarians.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Saturday, January 28, 2023, ALA LLX, New Orleans, LA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracie Hall", written in a cursive style.

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director,  
and Secretary of the ALA Council