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## **European Feminist Initiative in Solidarity with Brave Women of Iran**

### **WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!**

We, as the whole world are following with excitement and concern your just and brave protests in Iran. Women's liberation in Iran has always been a source of inspiration and pride for us. For the past thirty years, you have fought a difficult and dangerous fight against a very brutal and misogynist regime that considers women as half human beings. Forceful imposition of Islamic veil and gender apartheid in Iran has created a large cage for the women and indeed the whole society. These reactionary measures have angered all freedom-loving people and the feminist movement in the world.

You have succeeded, by the sheer force of defiance, resistance and struggle to change the balance of power in the favor of women and realize some achievements, which are unthinkable under such circumstances. You have gone through daily battles with the so-called moral police over the veil and the Islamic dress code. You have been imprisoned, lashed and tortured for trying to realize the most basic human rights. All of us have watched your struggle, your everyday battles and your movement enthusiastically. You have inspired the respect and admiration of the whole egalitarian, freedom-loving and progressive world.

In these dire moments, your role as the champion of freedom, equality and a better world is extremely vital. Your everyday struggle shows that women in Iran cannot achieve freedom and equality, as long as this regime is in power. The imposition of the veil, of the Islamic dress code and gender apartheid are the main obstacles on the road to achieve our common goals. Creating a State, in which religion is separated from the public sphere, from the political, educational and judicial system is a necessary condition for women's

equality. We support your struggle for the establishing of a secular and civil State in Iran.

Your movement is not only a source of power and hope in the general movement of the people in Iran against tyranny and oppression, but it is a source of inspiration and change for the women's movement in the countries under the grip of Political Islam, in the whole Middle East, as well as Europe and the whole world.

Accept our sincere solidarity in your difficult struggle. We follow carefully any move you make and do our best to let the world know about the depth of your grievances as well as your brave actions and important achievements.

IFE-EFI European Coordination