

October 19, 2022

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield  
United States Ambassador to the United Nations  
United States Mission to the United Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield,

We write to you today to express our extreme disgust over Iran's mistreatment of women and their continued membership on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

In September, Mahsa Amini died while under police custody in Iran. Her crime was allegedly wearing a headscarf too loosely, and her family has stated they were told she was beaten to death while in custody<sup>1</sup>. Her death subsequently triggered widespread protests. Sadly, Iranians who bravely stood up in protest have been violently repressed. One such instance is a documented case of a woman being sexually assaulted by police.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, over 200 people, including children, have been killed by Iran's security forces.<sup>3</sup> While this is the reported number, the actual count is suspected to be much higher.

The violence being committed by the totalitarian government of Iran should surprise no one, as sadly it is one of their main tools of control. What may surprise Americans however is that despite their history of violence and repression towards women, Iran is a member of the UN body charged with "promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women."<sup>4</sup> Their past, present, and future membership on this commission makes a mockery of the entire United Nations and undermines the credibility of this commission.

Your predecessor, Nikki Haley, has already called on Iran's removal from the commission.<sup>5</sup> While others have also called for their removal, and the Biden Administration has issued harsh statements against the regime, a member of the State Department said they did not have any

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<sup>1</sup> [Amnesty: Iran Ordered Forces to 'Severely Confront' Protests \(voanews.com\)](https://www.voanews.com/news/iran-ordered-forces-to-severely-confront-protests-2022-09-15)

<sup>2</sup> [Iran anti-riot police sexually assault women in public as protests near one-month anniversary \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/iran-anti-riot-police-sexually-assault-women-in-public-as-protests-near-one-month-anniversary/v-AA111111)

<sup>3</sup> [Iran Human Rights | Article: Iran Protests: Death Toll Rises to at Least 201/Children Victims of the Crackdown | \(iranhr.net\)](https://iranhr.net/article/iran-protests-death-toll-rises-to-at-least-201-children-victims-of-the-crackdown)

<sup>4</sup> [Commission on the Status of Women | UN Women – Headquarters](https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/04/commission-on-the-status-of-women-un-women-headquarters)

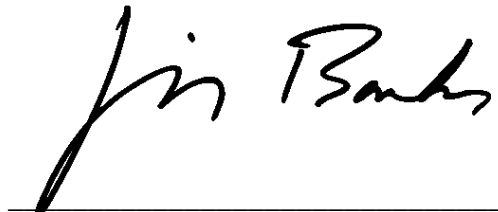
<sup>5</sup> [Nikki Haley urges removal of 'fanatical' Iran from UN women's commission amid bloody crackdown on protesters | Fox News](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/nikki-haley-urges-removal-fanatical-iran-un-women-commission-amid-bloody-crackdown-protesters)

“actions to preview.”<sup>6</sup> The United States is the beacon of freedom for all, and this response is unacceptable and inexcusable. As the representative of our great country to the United Nations, and with billions of people watching, we implore you to take decisive action, live up to our country’s ideals, and show the world that the United States and the United Nations can and will hold human right pariahs accountable. As such, we are demanding to know what steps you will be taking to remove Iran from the commission. We request a response within 30 days upon receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,



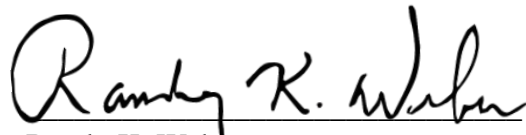
Lisa C. McClain  
Member of Congress



Jim Banks  
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David B. McKinley, P.E.  
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Randy K. Weber  
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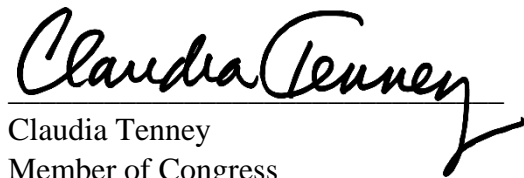
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Claudia Tenney  
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<sup>6</sup> [Nikki Haley urges removal of 'fanatical' Iran from UN women's commission amid bloody crackdown on protesters | Fox News](#)



Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



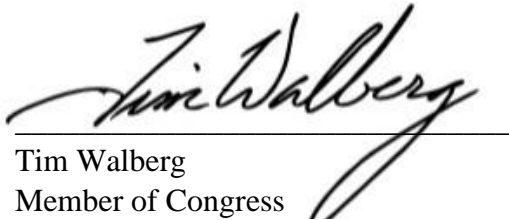
Carlos Gimenez  
Member of Congress



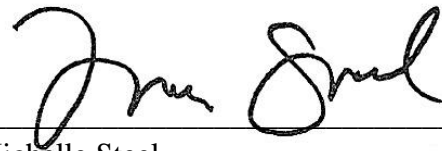
Scott Franklin  
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