

JMU Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Statement on Human Rights in Iran

(Motion 1–F22)

The James Madison University community stands with colleagues and students at Iranian universities as the faculty and student body at numerous communities of learning continue to face violence inflicted by government agents and vigilantes.

As faculty at James Madison University, we stand in solidarity with colleagues and students in Iran and are outraged at the level of violence unleashed on protesters. We condemn the attacks on university campuses (and beyond) and express our deep concern over the fate of Iranian professors and students who were shot at, beaten and taken to undisclosed locations.

We express our support to all the courageous women across Iran, from Tehran’s Sharif University of Technology and Shiraz Art University to high school students across the country. As a university named after the chief author of the Bill of Rights, their slogan, “*Zan, Zendegi, Azadi*” (“Woman, Life, Freedom”), resonates with all of us at JMU. Academic freedom, human rights and autonomy are sacrosanct and the foundations of democracy.

The James Madison University Faculty Senate expresses its grave concern over the violation of these basic human rights of university professors and students in Iran. Professors and students in Iran have the right to teach and learn in dignity in a free and safe academic environment, free from governmental repression and regardless of religion, political persuasion, gender or ethnicity.