



**Statement of ASIL President Gregory Shaffer
Regarding the Defense of Women’s Rights in Iran and Globally**

December 15, 2022

The American Society of International Law stands in solidarity with women around the world, united in protests against violence and abuse perpetrated and authorized by state authorities.

After Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman, was arrested by Iran’s “morality police” on September 13, 2022, for not wearing a head scarf, and died in custody after being brutally beaten, protests broke out across the country, with women taking the lead. The protestors face continued violent state repression in response.

Women too have taken the lead in protests in Afghanistan, the United States, and around the world. They demand protection of their rights, including their right to basic bodily autonomy. Women put their very bodies on the line to advance human rights.

Over one hundred seventy countries are parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including Iran. Yesterday the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Council took action and voted to expel Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women.

International human rights law and international institutions are critical for providing resources for the protection of women’s rights everywhere. A core rule-of-law principle is that all are equal under the law. As an organization devoted to international law and justice, the American Society of International Law stands with the women of Iran and around the world and condemns government-sponsored violence and repression.

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ABOUT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The American Society of International Law (ASIL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization founded in 1906 and chartered by Congress in 1950. Its mission is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice.