

Motion on solidarity with Iranian students

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The Union Notes

1- That a nationwide revolutionary movement has erupted across Iran in over 400 cities, with citizens demanding an end to the current theocratic dictatorship which has denied the basic human rights and dignity of Iranians for the past five decades.

2- That the Islamic Republic regime and its repressive arms, specifically the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), are committing crimes against humanity, with estimates of over 30,000 civilian protestors killed on 8 and 9 January alone.¹

3- That the regime has imposed a digital blackout to hide these atrocities, while the UK Government has not yet utilised its full diplomatic leverage to intervene.

4- That the international norm of "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) establishes that when a state fails to protect its population from mass atrocities, the international community has a responsibility to intervene.

5- Iranian students at this University are witnessing the slaughter of their families and communities from afar, causing immense psychological distress and a feeling of isolation. IRGC spreads violence across the Middle East and the region's population including relatives of students who are from Iran or neighbouring countries.²

The Union Believes

1- That the right to protest, freedom of expression, and the right to life are fundamental human rights that must be defended universally, regardless of the perpetrator.

2- That silence from academic institutions in the face of mass atrocities is a failure of ethical leadership.

3- That the Student Union has a moral duty to stand in solidarity with students facing state violence and trauma, and to amplify the voices of those who are being silenced.

4- That Iranian students at this University are witnessing the slaughter of their families and communities from afar, causing immense psychological distress and a feeling of isolation.

¹<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2026/jan/27/iran-protests-death-toll-disappeared-bodies-mass-burials-30000-dead>

² <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/b0000lfz>

5- That maintaining diplomatic relations with a regime actively massacring its own citizens normalises their violence.

6- That the safety of British citizens in Iran and the Iranian students and diaspora in the UK is threatened by the continued operations of the Islamic Republic's diplomatic missions.

The Union Resolves

1- To issue an immediate public statement in solidarity with Iranian students, unequivocally condemning the violence committed by the Islamic Republic regime against Iranian citizens, and expressing full solidarity with the Iranian people's goal of overthrowing the dictatorship.

2- To mandate the Sabbatical Officers to write to the Foreign Secretary and the local MP, demanding that the UK Government:

- Condemn the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) in its entirety and stand in Solidarity with Iranian people.
- Invoke the "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) doctrine to hold the regime accountable for crimes against humanity.
- Immediately expel all diplomats representing the Islamic Republic from the UK to strip the regime of its legitimacy.
- Shut down the UK Embassy in Tehran immediately to ensure the safety of British personnel and citizens, given the volatile and violent nature of the regime's current crackdown.

3- To lobby the University Administration to:

- Release its own official statement acknowledging the crisis and condemning the violence, thereby signaling to Iranian students that their institution values their safety and dignity.
- Publicly support these calls for the condemnation of the IRGC and to protect Iranian students on campus from potential harassment by regime sympathisers.
- To provide urgent appointments with the wellbeing team and offer help with applying for Extenuating Circumstances for any Iranian students who might need them.
- Dedicate a crisis fund for Iranian students who are cut off from financial support.
- Establish a scholarship programme for students of Iranian origin