



# Bahá'í International Community

Brussels Office

---

52 – 54 rue Henri Evenepoel, 1030 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 6446463 • Fax: +32 2 6462277 • E-mail: [brussels@bic.org](mailto:brussels@bic.org)

Mr. Tibor Navracsics  
European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Mr. Carlos Moedas  
European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation

Brussels, 12th April 2016

Dear Commissioners,

As you are preparing to accompany the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Mrs. Federica Mogherini, on her visit to Iran, the Bahá'í International Community would like to draw your attention to the situation of the Bahá'ís in that country and in particular to the denial of their right to higher education.

Since the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979, members of the Bahá'í Faith – the largest non Muslim religious minority in the country – have been denied access to higher education as a matter of official state policy.

The report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 31st session of the Human Rights Council (March 2016) states that “members of the Bahá'í community are generally denied access to public and private universities. Few managed to enroll without their religious affiliation being known but were expelled upon revelation of their faith.”

We are confident that you agree that no society can hope to thrive if a significant amount of its youth are barred from contributing to its intellectual capital.

We therefore very much hope that during your visit, you will find ways to address the question of education for all, including for the Bahá'ís, in such a way that Iran's authorities will be encouraged to take concrete and palpable measures to remedy the situation.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel Bayani  
Representative  
Bahá'í International Community - Brussels office

-Letter to High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Mrs. Federica Mogherini  
-Overview of the persecutions of the Bahá'ís in Iran  
-Report prepared by the Bahá'í International Community entitled: "Their Progress and Development are Blocked: The economic oppression of Iran's Bahá'ís".