

Subject: Support for the "Our Story Is One" Campaign

We, the undersigned Women Nobel Laureates, are writing to express our unwavering support for the "Our Story Is One" campaign, which seeks to shed light on the ongoing struggle for gender equality in Iran. As recipients of the Nobel Prize, we understand the importance of amplifying the voices of those who fight for justice and equality, even in the face of persecution and adversity.

This campaign commemorates a tragic event that unfolded exactly four decades ago this month. On June 18, 1983, in the city Shiraz, Iran, under the cloak of night, 10 Bahá'í women were mass executed one by one, as they were forced to watch the hanging of the next woman in a final attempt to force them to recant their faith. None did. Their crime was their beliefs in equality, justice, and truthfulness.

The story of the 10 Bahá'í women from Shiraz, Iran, serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by countless women of all faiths and backgrounds in Iran in their pursuit of equal rights. These women, with unwavering courage and determination, stood up for their principles, even at the risk of their own lives. Their tragic execution, while heart-wrenching, sparked a flame of resilience that continues to burn brightly in the hearts of Iranian women today.

Through the continued lived story of thousands of young women in Iran who are tirelessly fighting for equality, persecuted in its path by imprisonment, torture and even death, we witness the legacy of the 10 women of Shiraz. Their sacrifices have inspired a new generation of women who refuse to be silenced and are willing to endure great hardships to live in a more prosperous and just Iran. The story of the resilience of Iranian women in the face of persecution is a shared one, transcending boundaries of faith and background.

The "Our Story Is One" campaign provides a platform to honor not only the memory of these 10 courageous women but also the countless others who have followed in their footsteps. These women, regardless of their religious beliefs or backgrounds, have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of justice and equality. In a country where women are denied the freedom to even believe, let alone practice their beliefs, their struggle is profound and urgent.

Therefore, we urge you to join us in supporting the "Our Story Is One" campaign. Let us come together to remember the lives and stories of these 10 women from Shiraz, along with the stories of all women who have walked the arduous path towards equality. By standing in solidarity with the Baha'i women in Iran and all women in Iran, we reaffirm our commitment to their fight for justice and equality.

We believe that change can only be achieved through collective action, and we invite individuals, organizations, and governments alike to unite in this cause. Together, let us empower the women of Iran and support their relentless pursuit of equal rights.

With utmost respect and solidarity,

Signatures:

Shirin Ebadi

Tawakkol Kerman

Jody Williams

Rigoberta Menchú Tum

Leymah Gbowee