

UK Academies Human Rights Committee

Statement on violent repression of peaceful protests in Iran

The UK Academies Human Rights Committee (UK HRC) is an alliance of the seven national academies of the UK that acts in support of academic freedom throughout the world and defends the fundamental rights of scholars under threat.

We, the members of the UK HRC, are alarmed by the violent suppression of peaceful protests in Iran, including recent attacks on and arrests of members of the higher education community, following the death of Mahsa (Jina) Amini on 16 September 2022, who had been arrested by Iran's morality police days earlier.

As protests continue, we are deeply concerned about the further escalation of violence on university campuses, which has resulted in dozens of deaths and mass detentions, and has extended to more than 100 universities throughout the country, with numerous students arrested for their involvement.

We call upon Iranian authorities, in line with Iran's obligations as a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to cease the unnecessary use of force in response to popular demonstrations and to ensure the release of students and others who have been arbitrarily detained. We further call upon authorities to uphold the human rights to education, and to access science and research, free from violence and interference by the authorities.

