

8.4. MM04: Support for Iranian Women

Many of us have been watching the tremendous courage and bravery of the women and people of Iran following the tragic death of 22-year-old woman Ms Mahsa Amini who died in custody after being arrested for allegedly violating strict dress codes.

On 13 September 2022, Ms Amini was arrested by Iran's "morality police" in Tehran for allegedly not wearing a hijab in full compliance with mandatory requirements. She fell into a coma shortly after collapsing at a detention centre and died three days later from a heart attack.

Since her death, thousands have joined anti-government demonstrations throughout Iran. Security forces have responded at times with live ammunition, and many people have been killed, injured and detained in the protests.

The Australian Government has condemned the actions of the Iranian Government and Australia's Federal Opposition has pledged to support any government action over Iran's human rights abuses, even if they have economic consequences.

Australians, State Governments and many, many councils (including our neighbours at Willoughby City Council and the City of Sydney) have condemned the deadly and disproportionate use of force against those protesting for women's and human rights in Iran.

On Friday morning, 11 November 2022, I met with Ms Shokufeh Kavani, an Iranian/Australian artist living in the North Sydney Local Government Area.

Ms Kavani sought that Council join with other councils and provide acknowledgement and support for the women of Iran. In addition, she sought Council's support for the Iranian Freedom Movement rally to be held within the next week or so through promotion on Council's website and social media platforms.

I therefore recommend:

1.THAT Council acknowledges the courage and bravery of the women, girls and people of Iran who are protesting against Iran's significant discrimination against women and ongoing human rights violations.

2.THAT Council reaffirms the values and priorities of the North Sydney Community Strategic Plan which express our community's commitment to a just, inclusive, and socially cohesive North Sydney where democracy, equality, human rights, and the Rule of Law are highly valued and respected.

3.THAT Council write to the Hon Senator Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition expressing support for their public stand on this issue.

4.THAT Council promotes the Iranian Freedom Movement rally through a message on the Council website and social media channels.

COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER

MAYOR