

Women, girls and students protesting in Iran

10th October, 2022



Protests by women, school girls and university students are gaining in momentum in Iran. The uprisings began following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini on the 16th of September at the hands of Iran's morality police. She became an instant

martyr after she took off her headscarf and showed her hair in public. Her death ignited a whole series of demonstrations throughout Iran. Hundreds of thousands of women have replicated Ms Amini's actions to openly send a message to Iran's leaders. They took off their headscarves en masse in the streets, on buses and in schools. Many burnt their hair coverings and cut their hair in public. They have marched in the streets chanting their rallying cry of "women, life, freedom".

The latest uprising in Iran is the result of decades of pent-up fury at Iran's regime. Women are tired of being forced to cover their hair. It became obligatory in April 1983 for them to do so. Punishments for violating this law range from financial penalties to imprisonment. The death of 16-year-old Nika Shakarami last week has further fuelled the intensity of the protests. Hundreds more have died in the past month at the hands of the authorities. An Iranian professor said hair coverings were the tip of the iceberg. She said: "There's a lot of compulsion in Iranian culture, and so the demand is freedom. The current protests... are engaging students... who are ready to live life freely. They're done with death and grief and mourning."

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [abcnews.go.com](https://www.abcnews.go.com) / [time.com](https://www.time.com)

Writing

One day, everyone will have freedom. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

protests / momentum / uprisings / martyr / hair / headscarf / message / in public / pent up / fury / financial penalties / imprisonment / authorities / freedom / life

True / False

- 1) The article says school boys and girls are protesting in the streets. T / F
- 2) The death of a teenager who removed her headscarf started the initial protests. T / F
- 3) Women have been removing headscarves in schools and on buses. T / F
- 4) Many women in Iran are cutting their hair in public. T / F
- 5) The uprisings in Iran are a recent thing. T / F
- 6) It has been law in Iran for over 30 years for women to cover their hair. T / F
- 7) Women in Iran can go to prison for not wearing a headscarf. T / F
- 8) A professor said students are finished with grieving and mourning. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. momentum | a. compulsory |
| 2. instant | b. copied |
| 3. series | c. finished |
| 4. replicated | d. immediate |
| 5. cry | e. revolt |
| 6. uprising | f. energy |
| 7. obligatory | g. breaching |
| 8. violating | h. sorrow |
| 9. done | i. chain |
| 10. grief | j. appeal |

Discussion – Student A

- a) How important is freedom to you?
- b) What do you know about this story?
- c) What do you think of Mahsa Amini?
- d) What do you think of the thousands of women taking off hair coverings?
- e) Would you join the women and protest?
- f) Should women be forced to not wear hair coverings and veils?
- g) How dangerous is it to take part in these protests?
- h) What advice would you give the women and girls who are protesting?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. gaining in | a. pent-up fury |
| 2. Her death ignited a whole | b. mourning |
| 3. openly send | c. cry |
| 4. burnt their hair coverings | d. for them to do so |
| 5. chanting their rallying | e. series of demonstrations |
| 6. the result of decades of | f. of the iceberg |
| 7. It became obligatory in April 1983 | g. a message |
| 8. Punishments for violating | h. momentum |
| 9. the tip | i. this law |
| 10. grief and | j. and cut their hair |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Are there freedoms that you do not have?
- What would make you protest in the streets?
- What can you do to help the protestors?
- Are we gaining or losing freedoms in our lives?
- What do you know about Iran's history?
- How will this story develop in the coming months?
- What questions would you like to ask Iran's leaders?

Spelling

- gaining in tunmmemo
- Iran's lirotmay police
- She became an instant arymtr
- a whole series of soiadetnmortsn
- women have ectdarleip Ms Amini's actions
- chanting their yariqlnl cry
- It became gylrbitoa in April 1983
- Punishments for nvlgtioia this law
- the iintensty of the protests
- the tip of the ecrbgei
- There's a lot of liosoucnp
- They're done with death and grief and onurnmig

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. e	7. a	8. g	9. c	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Freedom

You think freedom is the top thing to demonstrate in the streets for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): human rights, equality or climate change.

Role B – Human Rights

You think human rights is the top thing to demonstrate in the streets for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): freedom, equality or climate change.

Role C – Equality

You think equality is the top thing to demonstrate in the streets for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): human rights, freedom or climate change.

Role D – Climate Change

You think climate change is the top thing to demonstrate in the streets for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): human rights, equality or freedom.

Speaking – Demonstrations

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that would make you demonstrate in the streets at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| • Higher pay | • Equal rights |
| • Lower taxes | • No war |
| • Freedom | • Government corruption |
| • Human rights | • Climate change |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 T
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.