

**Question for written answer E-000563/2023/rev.1  
to the Council**

Rule 138

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Subject: Issuing visas to Iranian women and girls

Since peaceful protests erupted across Iran in September 2022 following the killing of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in state custody, the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to stop these protests by killing hundreds of men and women, including children, arresting thousands of people and executing protesters.

The situation has been especially alarming for the women and girls who initiated the protests to end violence and discrimination against women in Iran. As part of the repression, Iranian security forces are targeting women at anti-regime protests with gunshots to their faces, breasts and genitals, according to interviews with medics across the country. This is horrific gender-based violence.

Women and girls, who have been at the forefront of the protests, are being particularly targeted with intimidation, harassment, sexual violence, the death penalty and death sentences. They are facing terrible risks related to their freedom, health and rights. Helping them to reach a safe place could save their lives.

Considering this situation, how will the EU and its Member States facilitate the issuance of visas to women who fear persecution for peacefully exercising their right to the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly in connection with the demonstrations in Iran?

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