

Rep. Nancy Mace:

Thank you, ma'am. It's an honor to be here today to show that there is bipartisanship in Congress and in Washington, and particularly we're here today to shed light on the urgent plight of Iranian women.

I want to thank the Iranian women who are here with us this morning and online. They need immediate action in support of their fundamental rights and freedoms that every woman around the world should be able to have.

We offer our unwavering commitment to advocating for freedom and the rights of women worldwide. This can transcend party lines to unite on issues of human rights.

I was the first woman to graduate from the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina. I have a history of breaking glass ceilings on the first Republican in Congress from my home state of South Carolina. Both Sheila Jackson Lee and I have had many firsts. She was the first woman in her bachelor's degree from Yale, and we both stood for sort of the forefront of breaking barriers advocating for equal opportunities in our role here in Congress.

We've both fought for the rights of all individuals regardless of their gender and showing Sheila Jackson Lee's leadership in Congress being one of the first congresswomen from Yale, showing her leadership up here for human rights and for women's rights. It's an honor to be with you this morning.

We will not stand for the grave human rights violations inflicted upon the women of Iran by a regime that continues to stifle their voices, suppress their aspirations, and deny their basic humanity.

We're here to address this injustice head on to challenge the status quo and to work towards a brighter future for all women of Iran. We're proud to mention in H.RES. 100, introduced by Congressman McClintock, who's here with us today, which solidly condemns the Iranian regime's oppression of women, expresses support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear republic of Iran, and condemns the violations of human rights and state-sponsored terrorism by the current regime.

The resolution is a testament to our commitment to justice and our determination to hold accountable those who perpetuate such heinous acts against women. We cannot stand for it. We must send a strong message that the international community stands in solidarity with Iranian women and will not tolerate the suppression of their rights.

It is with great admiration and respect that we recognize today's witness, Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran. Her unwavering courage and tireless advocacy for the Iranian people, particularly women, has not gone unnoticed. Mrs. Rajavi, your virtual presence here today serves as a beacon of hope and a beacon of light for those who strive for freedom and equality in Iran.

Let us also acknowledge the bravery of the Iranian people who've been bravely protesting for their fundamental rights and freedoms, literally putting their lives on the line for freedom. As a representative of the people of South Carolina, we're proud to mention that our State House unanimously passed House Resolution 4422, which expresses South Carolina's unequivocal support for the people of Iran and their pursuit of fundamental rights and freedoms.

We stand in solidarity with the brave men and women of Iran who yearn for a society where their voices are heard, where their rights are respected, and where their aspirations are realized. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join hands today, rise above partisan politics in Washington, and advocate for the rights of Iranian women and women all over the world.

Thank you, Madam, and I yield back.

--Cont. final remarks by Rep. Nancy Mace:

Rep. Nancy Mace:

Thank you. Thank you. South Carolina is outnumbered by all the Texans up here. But I want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a woman who's fought for freedom in her own right and has broken many barriers. Thank you.

We've worked together a number of times. And it's kind of rare for us to be able to be up here from different parties, from both parties and working together. And this may be one of the few places where you see Democrats and Republicans come together. And there's no better place to do that than right here in the fight for Iranian women and their freedom. And we want to thank our witness and my colleagues who are up here today, this is not easy.

It's shocking in many ways to know that these human rights violations, the way that women are treated in Iran, that it's going on today in 2023. We know and understand the risks that you're taking, that women are taking in Iran to their lives.

You can see the images up here today of women who gave it all, who gave their life and their fight for freedom just not to wear a hijab, just to be able to walk down the street freely, and they lost their lives because of it. And so, I want to thank you all for allowing us to be a part of this movement and we will support you in any way that we can.

We want to share immense gratitude for the women who are here this morning and the men we love you too. But and I also want to thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for working together on this. There's no greater fight than the fight for freedom.

Thank you and many blessings.