



The One Million Signatures Campaign is a peaceful grassroots movement for gender equality that has sprung from the efforts of Iranian women inside Iran. Since June of 2006, the Campaign has been striving to realize its goal to end gender discrimination in the Iranian legal system through raising consciousness and collecting signatures from Iranians. Throughout over a year of activism, this grassroots campaign has spread to 27 different cities in Iran and volunteers in 7 other countries are spreading its message to the international community. With a simple and clear demand and no ideological agenda or a hierarchy, the Campaign has attracted a wide range of people from around Iran and from Iranians in the diaspora.

Despite the fact that the activities of the campaign are peaceful and legal according to Iranian law, the activists of this campaign have been subjected to constant government pressure. 50 activists have spent time in jail so far; some have received prison sentences and many have been freed on probation or such high bail that their activism has been suppressed.

Campaign members in California are a group of students and professionals who have joined together to advocate for this campaign and to collect signatures from Iranians in Southern California.

Many prominent international champions of peace and equality have expressed their support of this campaign such as the Nobel Peace Laureates Dalai Lama (Tibet), Jody Williams (US), Desmond Tutu (South Africa), Mairead Corrigan (Ireland), Betty Williams (Ireland), and Shirin Ebadi (Iran).

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## How can international organizations or individuals support your effort?

**The most important and helpful type of international support comes from independent human rights and women's rights organizations.**

It is important for the safety of activists that support is not posed in terms that can be closely linked with "regime change" efforts or propaganda, because not only is this not a goal of the Campaign, but it will endanger activists working on the ground and the Campaign too will lose credibility among its true audience which is the Iranian public.

It is not to the benefit of individual activists or the Campaign to receive support from government groups or quasi- government groups which are closely linked with or are traditionally viewed as hostile to the Iranian government, because we will suffer a backlash at home.

We cannot control the type of support we receive from international groups, but we urge international groups to take into consideration the best interest of the Campaign and its activists and act ethically and responsibly in this respect.

Support us through the following means:

- Support us by publicizing our efforts;
- Post our articles on your website: we have an English website that posts translations of articles by activists or original articles on the Campaign. Our English site is updated regularly. You can link our site or post articles by our members, which appear on our English website (credit should be given to the author, translator and the site). Take a look at: [www.we-change.org/english](http://www.we-change.org/english);
- Express your solidarity for the campaign in polite and non-political terms (we are not an opposition group and should not be touted as such);
- Support us when activists get arrested by writing polite letters to Iranian officials requesting their immediate release, their fair treatment in prison and in court, or by posting news on your website about our imprisoned colleagues; and
- Share with us experiences of women's movements in your countries addressing similar issues or utilizing similar strategies, so that we can learn from the experiences of women around the globe.