

Farzane Mostafaei

**Iranian Elite Research Centre**  
**11<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**  
**UPR – Germany**

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the Iranian Elite Research Centre, and I would like to thank the Council for the establishment of the Universal Periodic Review.

Mr. President,

One of the concerns of this Institute is the negligence of the freedom of belief and religion of all people from all races and religions that can be seen in some countries.

The freedom of religion and belief issue in some German states have caused legal restrictions for Muslims, Muslim women in particular, and this issue from the viewpoint of Muslim women is not only a religious discrimination but it is also a gender discrimination, and for this reason it is a human rights violation.

The banning of religious clothes (hejab or the veil) in some state-run schools, violates the fundamental rights of Muslim women in the country, and not only violates the right to choose religion, the right to wear personal clothes and the respect of privacy of these individuals, but it has also taken away from them the freedom to choose a career.

According to some human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Muslim women who did not agree the new regulations, despite having years experience in their careers and being born in Germany, were forced to leave the country.

Mr. President,

The Iranian Elite Research Centre calls upon Germany to review and re-evaluate the laws regarding the banning of wearing religious signs and insignia in some states, so that the freedom of religion and belief of people are not violated.

We also call upon the Council in its Universal Periodic Review of Germany to review the consequences of these restrictions and bans, and to remind the German government to observe human rights principles to the full.

This Institute calls upon the German government to observe and make the same approach that it does in a non-discriminatory way to other religions, to also apply towards Muslims.