



Denounce the denial of higher education to Baha'is in Iran

Submitted by Executive Council
Committee **Socio-Political**

- 1 **Whereas**, the CFT supports the rights of a quality education for all regardless of religious beliefs; and
2 **Whereas**, the promotion and protection of equal educational opportunity for all has been a central objective of
3 CFT policy, and
4 **Whereas**, Iran is one of the 48 member states of the United Nations General Assembly that voted to adopt the
5 Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, Article 18 of the Declaration states that “everyone has the
6 right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,” and Article 26 of the Declaration states that “everyone
7 has the basic right to education” and that “higher education shall be made equally accessible to all on the basis
8 of merit,” and
9 **Whereas**, the Iranian government continues its systematic efforts to persecute Baha'is in Iran, denying basic
10 human and civil rights to followers of the Baha'i Faith, solely on the basis of their religion, and several
11 governments and international bodies, including the United States and the United Nations, have spoken out
12 repeatedly against the persecution of Baha'is in Iran, and
13 **Whereas**, the Iranian government has embarked on a campaign to systematically deny opportunities for higher
14 education to all Baha'is, solely on the basis of their religion, and in particular has, for the last three academic
15 years, publicly pledged that Baha'is would be allowed to enroll in institutions of higher education, but has
16 instead refused to admit them to universities unless they deny their religion,
17 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) denounces the persecution of
18 Baha'is in Iran and the denial of higher education to Baha'is solely on the basis of their religion, and
19 **Be it further resolved** that the CFT president will communicate and publicize this denunciation in letters to
20 ~~one or more~~ **all** of the following entities: the United Nations Secretary-General, the United Nations High
21 Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the
22 United Nations Executive Director of UNICEF, and Iran's representatives to the United Nations, and
23 **Be it further resolved** that the CFT President will communicate and publicize this denunciation in letters to
24 members of the 110th Congress Second Session and support House Resolution 1008, condemning the
25 persecution of Baha'is in Iran, and
26 **And be it finally resolved** that nothing in this resolution shall be misused to encourage a U.S. war on Iran.