

## **BCIT Respect, Diversity, and Inclusion office statement on human rights situation in Iran**

On behalf of BCIT, we wish to express our support for the women, students, and courageous people of Iran who are risking their lives and freedom in support of gender equity and human rights.

We also wish to acknowledge and pay respect to those who have died in protest and in police custody, including Mahsa Amini, and the many others who continue to experience discrimination and repression. Their courage reminds us that the work towards the elimination of gender-based violence must continue in our communities here in BC and abroad.

We are horrified by what is occurring and understand that these events may be particularly upsetting for those BCIT community members who are from Iran or have loved ones there.

Please remember that BCIT is here to support you.

### **For students**

- [Counselling & Student Development](#): are available to meet with you in person, via video, or by phone. You can book an appointment by calling 604-432-8608.
- [Here2Talk](#): 24/7 phone or text-based counselling is available through Here2Talk.
- [Early Assist](#): If you are feeling overwhelmed, concerned for your safety, or aren't sure where to start, we encourage you to submit an Early Assist referral to be connected with one of our Student Life Managers, who can help you navigate BCIT's supports.

### **For staff and faculty**

- [Homewood Health](#): Staff and faculty are able to access 24/7, confidential counselling through BCIT's Employee and Family Assistance Provider, Homewood Health.
- [Distressing Events](#): You might find it helpful to review [these common responses](#) to distressing events, and suggestions for taking care of yourself and others.

Sincerely, Jackie Gruber, Director, Respect, Diversity, and Inclusion