



Public Event

The Women–Life–Freedom Movement in Iran Today

15 September 2025, 12:00–14:00

FEPS Office (40 rue Montoyer, 1000 Brussels, Belgium)

Background

Two years after the killing of Jina Mahsa Amini sparked the *Women–Life–Freedom* uprising, the courage of Iranian women and minorities continues to expose the brutality of a regime built on repression, misogyny, and systematic discrimination. Yet their struggle also raises urgent questions for us here in Europe: What responsibility do European institutions bear in supporting those who resist authoritarianism abroad? And how do we confront our own democratic backsliding, rollback of women’s rights, and hardening borders against those seeking refuge?

This event, taking place in the heart of Brussels, brings these debates into the political space where they matter most. Through the screening of *When Women Shake the Sky* and direct testimonies from the Iranian activists featured in the film, participants will engage not only with stories of resistance, but also with the demands for meaningful solidarity — from policy, diplomacy, and Europe’s commitment to human rights.

At a time when the EU prides itself as a defender of democracy and equality, the voices of Iranian women remind us that solidarity cannot remain symbolic. This is a call for European institutions, policymakers, and civil society to act together — to stand with those who risk everything for freedom, and to safeguard the same values within our own borders.

Join us for a lunch discussion of testimony and debate that bridges activism and policy, resistance and responsibility.

Programme

12:00 – 12:15 **OPENING REMARKS**

Laetitia Thissen, Senior Policy Analyst for Gender Equality, FEPS

12:15 – 12:30 **PROJECT INTRODUCTION**

Ass. Professor Vasileios Grammatikas, Research Institute for Geopolitical Analyses, DUTH

12:30 – 12:45 **FILM SCREENING**

“When Women Shake the Sky”

12:45 – 13:05 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Evin Incir, Member of the European Parliament

13:05 – 13:25 **REFLECTIONS WITH PROTAGONISTS**

Short interventions (approx. 5 minutes each) by four featured Iranian activists:



Golaleh Sharafkandi, former SIW Vice President for the Mediterranean and the Caucasus

Fariba Balouch, Human Rights Activist, President of the Baluch Advocacy and Studies Centre

Tahere Sadeghi, Spokesperson of the Democratic Party of Iran

Simin Sabri, Human Rights Activist, Iranian Turkish Women's Centre

13:25 – 13:55 **Q&A AND OPEN DISCUSSION**

Facilitator: **Laetitia Thissen**

13:55 – 14:00 **CLOSING**