

Iran Hijab Bill

Women Could Face Up To 10 Years In Jail For Dress Code Violations

Why In The News?

- Iran's Parliament Has Passed A Controversial Bill That Would Increase Prison Terms And Fines For Women And Girls Who Break Its Strict Dress Code. Those **Dressed "Inappropriately" Face Up To 10 Years In Jail** Under The Bill, For Which A Three-year "Trial" Was Agreed.
- The Bill, Known As The **"Hijab And Chastity Bill,"** Was Approved By A Parliamentary Vote Of 152 To 34 And Now Needs Approval Of Guardian Council, A Conservative Body Of Clerics And Jurists With The **Power To Veto The Legislation** If It Is Deemed Inconsistent With The Constitution And Sharia Law.

B B C NEWS

Iran hijab bill: Women face 10 years in jail for 'inappropriate' dress

What Does The Bill Say?

- Under The Provisions Of This Bill, Women And Girls Who Are Deemed To Be Dressed "Inappropriately" In Public Places Could Be Subjected To A **"Fourth Degree" Punishment.**
- According To Iran's Penal Code, This Means A Prison Sentence Ranging From Five To 10 Years And A Fine Of Between **180 Million And 360 Million Rials (\$3,651-\$7,302).**
- Additionally, Individuals Found Guilty Of **"Promoting Nudity" Or "Making Fun Of The Hijab"** On Media Platforms Or Social Networks Will Also Be Subject To Fines.
- Furthermore, Vehicle Owners Can Be Penalized If A Female Driver Or Passenger Is Not Adhering To The Strict Dress Code.

- Those Who **Promote Violations Of The Dress Code** "In An Organised Manner" Or "In Cooperation With Foreign Or Hostile Governments, Media, Groups, Or Organisations" May Face Imprisonment For A Period Ranging From Five To 10 Years.



Reactions Towards The Bill

- Earlier This Month, Eight Independent **UN Human Rights Experts** Issued A Joint Statement Warning That The Bill "**Could Be Described As A Form Of Gender Apartheid**" And Accused Iranian Authorities Of Governing Through Systemic Discrimination To Suppress Women And Girls.

Why Was The Bill Taken Up Now?

- This Controversial Legislation Follows A Series Of Protests Last Year In Response To The **Death In Custody Of Mahsa Amini**, Who Was Arrested By Morality Police For An Alleged Improper Hijab.
- During These Nationwide Demonstrations **Against The Clerical Establishment**, Hundreds Of People Were Reportedly Killed In A Security Force Crackdown, And Women Protested By Burning Or Waving Their Headscarves.
- Despite These Recent Developments, A Growing Number Of Women And Girls In Iran Have **Chosen To Forgo Covering Their Hair In Public**, Even In The Face Of The Resurgence Of The Morality Police And Increased Surveillance.