

**Statement on Iran Demonstrations**

**By PCIA Board of Directors**

15 January 2026

Fifty years ago, on 30 June 1976, the Peace Corps closed its doors and operations in Iran. Nonetheless the friendships and hopes for better relations between the American and Iranian people have endured through the memories and efforts of more than 1,700 Americans who served as Peace Corps Volunteers over its 14-year history in Iran. For the last fifteen years those memories and hopes have been tended by the Peace Corps Iran Association, PCIA.

PCIA is a non-political and non-partisan organization, but we do make public statements about events and trends which weigh on the ability of Iranians to pursue their full human rights and on the ability of the governments of the United States and Iran to overcome nearly five decades of hostility.

In the context of the ongoing wave of anti-government protests and resulting repression in Iran, PCIA reaffirms our support for the aspirations of the Iranian people for a more peaceful and just future in which their dreams can be pursued without fear or punishment. We call on governments around the world to refrain from statements and actions which would undermine the legitimacy of the ongoing protests by allowing the Iranian government to frame them as evidence of a foreign conspiracy. Military action against Iran at this delicate juncture would be counterproductive to an outcome worthy of the sacrifices of the Iranian people.

If any entity is able to improve the phone and/or internet communication systems for Iranian people at this troubling hour, that is the one action which would be widely appreciated.

The Peace Corps Iran Association reaffirms its support for peace loving Iranians as they navigate a volatile path in search of a future filled with hope, dignity and opportunity. May their efforts be facilitated by the noninterference of foreign powers.