



## **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing**

### **Religious Freedom and Women's Rights in Iran**

#### **Panel I**



**Jennifer Gavito** is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iran, Iraq, and Public Diplomacy. Prior to taking on that role she served as the Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in London. From 2015-2018, she was the U.S. Consul General in Munich, Germany, where she was the senior U.S. government representative to Bavaria. She previously served as Chief of the Political Section at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem from 2012-2015 and as the Foreign Affairs Policy Advisor to the U.S. Africa Command's Director for Plans, Policies, and Programs (J5) from 2011-2012. Ms. Gavito has spent the majority of her Foreign Service career working in and on the Middle East. Previous assignments have included: Deputy Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate General in Dubai; Director for Syria and Lebanon on the staff of the National Security Council at the White House; Deputy Director of the Maghreb Affairs Office in the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs; Libya Desk Officer; and as head of the Economic/Commercial section at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. Early assignments were at the U.S. Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua and at the U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt, Germany. Before joining the State Department in 1998, she worked at the U.S. Department of Treasury as an Economic Analyst. Ms. Gavito attended American University in Washington, D.C. She is originally from Kansas City, Missouri, but now calls Colorado home. She is married and has two sons.

#### **Panel II**



**Javaid Rehman** is the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. Rehman is a Professor of International Human Rights Law and Muslim Constitutionalism at Brunel University, London. Mr. Rehman teaches human rights law and Islamic law and continues to publish extensively in the subjects of international human rights law, Islamic law and constitutional practices of Muslim majority States. Several of his published works have been translated into various languages. As a human rights lawyer, Mr. Rehman has also provided legal opinions in various high-profile cases in a number of jurisdictions.

### **Panel III**



**Marjan Keypour Greenblatt** is the Founder and Director of the Alliance for Rights of all Minorities (ARAM), a global network of a activists which promotes human rights in Iran. As a former refugee who escaped discrimination in the Middle East and Europe, her career has focused on advocacy for human rights and advancement of democratic ideals. She has advocated for Iran's minorities at the White House, US Congress, the State Department and the European Union. Her writings have appeared in IranWire, Kayhan Life, Huffington Post, among others. She holds a bachelor's degree from UCLA and a master's degree from Harvard University.



**Tschika McBean** is a Human Rights Officer at the Baha'is of the United States Office of Public Affairs. Tschika works to defend the rights of persecuted Bahá'í communities around the world; to advance international religious freedom; to promote U.S. ratification of international human rights treaties, and to engage with colleagues and partners in discourse around human rights issues, including human trafficking, racial justice and race unity. Before joining the Office, Tschika prosecuted Child Abuse and Maltreatment cases in New York City and provided legal defense to the re-entry population in New York State as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow. Tschika has also worked on deportation defense proceedings and has conducted a wide range of legal research and writing on various international law issues. Tschika is a licensed attorney, holds a B.A in Sociology, a J.D., and an LL.M. in International Law.



**Kate Meyer** is a Litigation Staff Attorney at the International Refugee Assistance Project. In this role, she was lead counsel in *Doe v. Mayorkas*, the class action lawsuit challenging the denial of refugee applications of nearly 90 Iranians of persecuted minority faiths who had traveled to Vienna at the invitation of the U.S. government to be processed under the Lautenberg Amendment. In 2022, pursuant to a settlement agreement, the U.S. government reopened class members' refugee applications and reprocessed them under fair security vetting procedures. Since then, dozens of class members have been approved and successfully reunited with family in the United States. Prior to joining IRAP, Kate was a Fellow at the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. She holds a J.D. from UC Berkeley School of Law and a B.A. cum laude from Cornell University.