

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jeff Fortenberry commented on the United Nations' (U.N.) decision earlier this week to elect Iran to its Commission on the Status of Women. A U.N. press release on Wednesday announced that Iran had been "elected by acclamation" to the commission.

"This irresponsible decision calls into question the U.N.'s commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of women worldwide," Fortenberry said. "Iran rejects the idea of legal equality for women and has a long record of blatant human rights violations, ranging from legally permitted acts of violence against women to government-sanctioned crackdowns to crush dissent. Iran's promotion to this commission is an offense to women, and a direct contradiction to the U.N.'s own Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Iranian law permits the stoning and lashing of women. The U.S. State Department's Annual Human Rights Report on Iran, released in March, details reports of numerous human rights violations.

Fortenberry is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on the Middle East.

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