

Speaker: It is well known that women bear the brunt of a community's suffering. Kurdish women possess strength. They are neither passive nor helpless. From those in Iran, who took to the streets in response to the brutal murder of Jina Amini, to those women on the frontlines of northeast Syria. Kurdish women play a major role in different aspects. Such as law, politics, science and as freedom fighters. Yet media attention on them has mainly focused on our engagement of armed combat against ISIS. Without any doubt we are safe because of their sacrifices. Nevertheless, Kurdish women suffer from a double oppression - on account of both their gender and ethnicity. Northeast Syria has witnessed a change in gender roles thanks to the women defenders who broke the stereotypes and main breadwinners in their communities. This is a great achievement, however there are still immense obstacles to surpass given that they face a precarious future in an unstable region under constant attack by Turkey. This instability leaves them unable to focus on other issues. Such as their livelihoods. More recently, residents in northeast Syria have once again come under attack and its targeting of critical infrastructure, power stations, oil supplies, schools and even a Covid-19 hospital. Turkey therefore threatens their very existence. We urge the international community to protect them, hear them and support their fearless fight. Kurdish women are leading a revolution in Iran and promoting gender equality. [inaudible] Kurdistan.