

# The Washington Post

*Democracy Dies in Darkness*



## I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran.

By **Shohreh Bayat**

Feb. 17, 2020 at 4:22 p.m. EST

*Shohreh Bayat is an arbiter for the International Chess Federation.*

Religious indoctrination starts early in Iran, when you are forced at school to learn the Koran. I was a dutiful student, praying assiduously while wearing a loose, ugly school uniform, with my hair hidden under a big scarf. At age 8, I even won a prize for fasting.

At 9, I was introduced by my father to the beautiful game of chess, beloved by ancient Persian poets. Chess requires logic and critical thinking — not faith. Slowly, in my teens, I began to question why, if God is fair, is there so much pain and suffering in the world?

Even if my faith was fading, as a woman in Iran I had no choice but to tolerate the hijab — the Islamic emblem of constant, misogynistic oppression. I avoided looking at myself in mirrors. Wearing the head-covering was torment enough. When traveling abroad for chess tournaments, I admired the young women from other countries who wore nice clothes, their hair beautifully styled. I gradually began to spend more time in front of the mirror, trying to find ways, within the confines of my fabric prison, to appear normal.

AD

Whenever I went abroad, I would make small changes in my appearance, perhaps by showing more hair than previously, even if I was careful to keep a portion of it concealed. Eventually, I gained a degree of renown as an international chess arbiter, working at tournaments around the world. I slowly became braver in loosening my hijab on those trips.

In 2017, I was honored to be the first woman ever appointed general secretary of a sports federation in Iran. But holding the position meant also enduring continual harassment by Iranian Chess Federation officials about the hijab. The next year, I resigned in frustration.

That didn't end the conflicts over the hijab. I continued to travel as an arbiter for the International Chess Federation and was pleased to be chosen for the Women's World Chess Championship 2020. When packing to travel to Shanghai for the first leg of the championship last month, I included several colorful scarves, which was the most daring I could be within the confines of Iranian law.

AD

After the first round in Shanghai, I received a message from the Iranian Chess Federation asking me to send a “good” photograph from the competition.

Translation: Photos that I appeared in on foreign websites were not hijabi enough for the federation to post on the messaging app Telegram in Iran. The loose scarf I wore was actually quite acceptable by Iranian standards, but more is demanded of public figures. Infuriated, like millions of Iranian women who hate the hijab, I said it was the best I could do.

I resolved to wear a “worse” hijab the next day, suspecting that the officials would decide that the first-round photo was “good” enough. I had no idea how this decision would change my life.

As anticipated, the photo from the first day appeared belatedly on Telegram. I had no idea anything was amiss until after the third round, when I went back to the hotel, turned on my smartphone and was stunned to see that it was teeming with messages. Some had stark warnings: “Don’t come back, they will arrest you.” Others included screenshots of Iranian media alleging that I hadn’t worn a hijab at all — the photo failed to convey that I did indeed wear one, albeit loosely — and, worse, had committed the outrage on the anniversary of some protest (the date of which I was unaware).

AD

Publicly, the president of the Iranian Chess Federation said that my participation in the event had nothing to do with him. Privately, he sent messages telling me to write an open letter supporting the hijab. Meanwhile, my harmless photo from the first round was purged from Telegram, which in Iran is heavily monitored by the government.

How could I write a letter proclaiming what I don't believe? Was it not humiliating enough that I had had to endure this detestable scarf on my head every day? The pain was enormous, the tears endless.

The next day, condemned already, I left the scarf behind and entered the world with determination and satisfaction. The Iranian media reported, without evidence, that I had applied for asylum. (No country was named.) I was still at the tournament, with weeks to go, and had a return ticket to Tehran. I wanted to go home, but by now it was too dangerous.

AD

As I write to you, I am in Britain — a lovely country, where I have received much kindness and generosity from the chess community. I don't know what the future holds.

I have seen many words of support from U.S. embassies around the world. That is touching, but also poignant, given that most Iranians can no longer enter the United States. Is it really against the law to be born Iranian? We are also humans, you know.

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Jason Rezaian: Women in Iran need America's help. Why won't we give it to them?

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AD



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**FARMER- Jerry 194758** 33 minutes ago *(Edited)*

Nice story...and you're brave women- and good luck in your new life...You got our's support...

Like Reply Link Report

**Susan** 1 hour ago

Unfortunately, the Orange blob has decided in his racist, Muslim hating non-wisdom that the U.S. no longer wants non-white, non-Christian people, unless they are really, really rich and will give him loads of money. Sorry.

You are more human than he is though. Trust me on that.

Like Reply Link Report

**Susan B\_A from Resistanceville** 4 hours ago

"Religion began when the first charlatan met the first fool."  
— Voltaire

Like Reply Link Report

**Buzzby** 4 hours ago

As a master-level chess strategist, how could you not know exactly where your actions would position you? You're out of your oppressive homeland and will receive a welcome in some Western country that offers you the freedom you seek. Well played! Attracting sympathy for your maltreated countrywomen is a bonus.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**forester2** 4 hours ago

When any religion gets into anything, reason goes out the window.

Like Reply Link Report

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**Dragonlordthe1st** 6 hours ago

Thank you for your bravery. Sadly the country no longer wants you because of a change in wardrobe, in my eyes and many others I would bet you have done no wrong.

Like 2 Reply Link Report

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**TheKarlMalone** 7 hours ago

This was clearly a plotted scheme to seek out asylum. She knew her acts would antagonize Iran and she did it anyways. You made the bed now you sleep in it.

Like 1 Reply Link Report

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**Lizard Person** 9 hours ago

A Muslim woman who hates hijabs because they are oppressive and ugly.

She cannot come to the United States but the burka wearers from Saudi Arabia can?

Like 3 Reply Link Report

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**Bob S.** 7 hours ago

First day on the internet, eh? You're gonna have fun! Others have noted some of the inconsistencies of the current administration's policies, and there's even talk of having an election later this year to see if anybody's interested in adjusting course.

:~)

Like 4 Reply Link Report

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**viperstudioart** 10 hours ago



Well Its looks bad for you, but is so Tiny reason to get an Asylum. Many people use different method to move to other country.

Like Reply Link Report



**owi2000** 10 hours ago

Religious persecution is a perfectly valid reason for asylum.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**PageTurner300** 12 hours ago

Shohreh, thank you for your courage. I wish you best of luck in your endeavors. There are many of us who support your fight against oppression.

Is it really against the law to be born Iranian? We are also humans, you know.

The fact that you can't safely return to your country for not wearing an appropriate hijab says everything we need to know about the Iranian culture.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Casual Route** 13 hours ago

I have worked with several Iranians including women. When they were in the States, they dressed as they wished. Primarily Western. They never suggested any concern. I assume in the author's case it was her public position that caused the concern. And that stinks.

We should be open to Iran, not hostile. The current approach we are taking, led by the RW, is allowing them to be more close minded. The 6+1 deal was imperfect, but was a great start. Shame we have no serious people in high office right now.

Like 5 Reply Link Report



**motherof3** 11 hours ago

I'm not so sure her problem is caused solely by her public position. Oh, that

position doesn't help her, to be sure. But I knew an Iranian woman about 35 years ago, who told a group of us that we were welcome to criticize Iran in front of her and that when she traveled back to visit family, she had to cover up. She was not at all a public figure, but in Iran she had to do what was "correct", or she and her family would suffer the consequences.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**radders uk** 13 hours ago

Although we have our share of right wing bigots in the UK, most people would welcome you to stay.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**agezee** 13 hours ago

Sounds about right about what a rule breaking woman should expect under sharia.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Thoughtful Feller** 13 hours ago

In the words of Christopher Hitchens: "Religion Poisons Everything." Look what it has done for the good people of Iran to have it commingled with their politics. That is why we need to keep church and state separated here.

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 



**Slobbering Hog** 15 hours ago *(Edited)*

I was totally enthralled until the very end:

That is touching, but also poignant, given that most Iranians can no longer enter the United States. Is it really against the law to be born Iranian? We are also humans, you know.

Whaaaa? It's strange to write an entire article about how cruelly you've been treated by a theocracy, about your personal terror over their vast potential for

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
treated by a theocracy, about your personal terror over their vast potential for violent reprisal, and then turn on a dime and spend your last few lines criticizing another country for *their* fear of those same theocrats.

Look, I freely admit US policy on immigration from Iran is a draconian overcompensation. I just hope that the USA's revulsion for (and paradoxically, emulation of) the toxic piety that has engulfed your homeland is understandable. You've been through so much so quickly: for your own peace of mind, don't pick too many fights at once, or your resentments will overwhelm you. It's happening everywhere.

Like 👍1 Reply ↩ Link ↻ Report 🚩



**JoeTheFormerReplumbercan** 14 hours ago

I think you left out some important context from your quote, specifically the lines right before where she says she has received messages of support from US embassies, while the US actual willingness to support is almost nil. I don't think that's picking a fight, it's saying put your money where your mouth is.

Like 👍6 Reply ↩ Link ↻ Report 🚩



**Bob S.** 14 hours ago

Be kind. The poor, slobbering beast is easily triggered into these spasms of whining.

Like 👍1 Reply ↩ Link ↻ Report 🚩



**Slobbering Hog** 8 hours ago *(Edited)*

I'm not sure the context changes the weakness of the argument. "Put your money where your mouth is" cuts both ways: it might be more *ethically consistent* with Trump administration policy for all our embassies to offer her no support at all, but it'd hardly be **better**.

It just seems odd to object to these differences of opinion and behavior from various parts of our government, when this woman is being persecuted for...having a different opinion and behaving differently. It's logically unsound to assert the right of the individual to live differently, and

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post then condemn the entire government for having too much diversity of thought.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Casual Route** 13 hours ago

Until the Trump admin, she could have traveled here no problem. Trump does not care one iota about sound policy. He cares about making the deplorables excited.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Vadata1940** 15 hours ago

I regret that under the current administration the USA has become so intolerant.

No one has a choice as to the circumstances of their birth—gender, religion, ethnicity, or nationality.

Many Americans hope that this intolerance will soon change, and our nation will once again be a beacon of hope and freedom to the world, welcoming those suffering persecution due to their quest to be free of oppression.

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**Cyrus Says** 16 hours ago

Dear Ms. Bayati

I am truly sorry that your government only cares about these superficial things, in an attempt to hang on to power.

I believe, that 70% to 80%, of your country's men and women support you. You don't deserve this. WE don't deserve this.

I would like to say, that the current period in Iran will be temporary, Some day, the current regime in Iran will fall.




Iran shall rise to occupy its rightful place among the world nations.

Until then, keep the love of Iran alive.

پاینده باد ایران

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report **Independent with common sense** 15 hours ago

Great name, btw. Fitting that it is Persian!

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report **Gardener Joe** 16 hours ago

I'm thinking that this letter was not a good move. On the other hand, I've been mated in ten moves. Recently.

So, if the strategy was to open a file all the way across the board (offers of asylum in the West): excellent.

Like  Reply  Link  Report **strat68** 16 hours ago

Islam, a religion of peace.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report **kate52** 13 hours ago

Basically, that's what all of the world's religions promote: Peace, love, harmony, and goodwill.

**Mystics** from each faith can very easily communicate with one another...because that's where they meet (at the heart center, working towards fuller awareness, and fuller accountability to that which is good and decent).

Meanwhile, **fundamentalists** tend to be at each other's throats, inflaming rivalries, and spreading distrust and war. And it's been this way for centuries...



**blueridge12101** 11 hours ago

"that's what all of the world's religions promote: Peace, love, harmony, and goodwill."

Have you read the Quran, kate? Concerning Islam, you don't know what you're talking about.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 10 hours ago

*The values of the Qur'an hold a Muslim responsible for treating all people, whether Muslim or non-Muslim, kindly and justly, protecting the needy and the innocent and "preventing the dissemination of mischief". Mischief comprises all forms of anarchy and terror that remove security, comfort and peace.*

### **6 Quran Quotes That Teach Love, Tolerance and Freedom of Religion**

By Good News Network - Feb 9, 2015

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/6-quran-quotes-teach-love-tolerance-freedom-religion/>

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 10 hours ago

Total lies. Pure propaganda. Islamic deception called "al taqiyya."

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 11 hours ago *(Edited)*

/s (strat68).

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Native Earthling** 16 hours ago

A hijab (and related coverings) is the dominance of males made manifest.

Countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, etc. are religious dictatorships - with Zero women in their governments.

Men set ALL the rules.

And women in these countries are little more than serfs. Forced to wear head coverings and burlap sacks.

Hijabs have nothing to do with "choice".

Like 6 Reply Link Report



**Djones121** 16 hours ago *(Edited)*

"Is it really against the law to be born Iranian? We are also humans, you know."

Gee. Do you think it might have something to do with Iran being the leading state sponsor of Islamist terrorism on the planet?

We are also humans and have a right to defend ourselves against any threats from Iran. And that should include enhanced border control measures.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**MDJavahead** 16 hours ago

Then why are we still in tight relationship with Saudi Arabia? The 9/11 terrorists were largely from Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia murdered an American journalist but they get a free pass.

Like 13 Reply Link Report



**Stepford Husband** 16 hours ago

How many Iranian attacks in the USA have you witnessed? FYI the 9/11 attacks were carried out by our close allies the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Like  13 Reply  Link  Report 



**Native Earthling** 16 hours ago *(Edited)*

"...the 9/11 attacks were carried out by our close allies the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

Not true.

If you murdered someone - is the US government to blame?

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Stepford Husband** 16 hours ago

Kingdoms are not accountable to anyone one or any law. We will be put to that test this November do we stay a democracy or become like Saudi Arabia.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**BringBackJFK** 16 hours ago

Wake UP!!! Saudi Arabia is merely a hedge against Iranian aggression in the Middle East. If not for the vast supply of oil the US and the rest of the Western World would have no interest in this region. While the US has reached the point of being an oil exporter and no longer dependent on Middle East oil the rest of the world's economy is. Saudi Arabia is the second largest producer of oil in the world. Any military conflict with Saudi Arabia would destroy the world economy almost overnight. Perhaps you don't care but the rest of the civilized world does.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Stepford Husband** 13 hours ago *(Edited)*

Perhaps continued dependency on oil will do us all in when the both polar regions have completely melted. Forget the global economy when global starvation and wars over resources are our future.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Independent with common sense** 15 hours ago

As an American, I don't feel at all threatened by Iranians seeking asylum in the US.

I'd be a little more concerned about Saudis entering the country, but if they are seeking asylum, I say let them in.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Michael Anasakta** 16 hours ago *(Edited)*

Ms Shohreh Bayat, I hope you contact Canada to see if you will be welcomed. Canada often acts quickly to help.

Like  10 Reply  Link  Report 



**ProudTexan2** 16 hours ago

I'm sorry the US is no longer a beacon of freedom. Europe is safer against tyranny than the US.

Like  15 Reply  Link  Report 



**Sartoris Marshall** 16 hours ago

The marriage of politics and religion always gives birth to nightmarish governments.

I hope that you find a country that accepts you for who you are - sadly, it won't be in America which is our loss.

Like  12 Reply  Link  Report 



**Jannibal** 16 hours ago

We're undergoing our own marriage - FORCED - of politics and right-wing bigoted, racist and misogynistic "religion" where so-called crooked "Christian" leaders of large and wealthy cults and "colleges and universities" such as

Liberty College run by Jerry Falwell, Jr. (who is as busy as a bee shoveling money from the College into his own and his family's pockets) are vociferous supporters of the Heil Trump Fascist government strangling the United States slowly to death.

Like  11 Reply  Link  Report 



**-Jorse-** 16 hours ago

I am sorry for you and I'm truly sorry for all people born under authoritarian regimes. I hope that things will be different for you in January when we (hopefully) rid ourselves of our own authoritarian leadership and the US is again able to live up to its marketing materials of being the "land of freedom" and not the "land of fear."

Like  18 Reply  Link  Report 



**HopingForSanity** 16 hours ago

Thank you for your article. I am so sorry that you fear returning to your home. I spent time in Iran briefly in the '70s and wore normal American clothing which was apparently offensive. Once I had to put my back against the wall to defend myself in a grocery store. My American male companion had a black belt and was infuriated at my treatment. I had to calm him down. Most Americans have no idea what it is like to live in a controlled environment. We dress ourselves any way we like (exhibiting a lot of flesh) without retribution. We take our freedoms for granted (even as this administration whittles away at them). My heart goes out to you and I am glad you found a welcoming Chess family in Britain.

Like  14 Reply  Link  Report 



**patmcq** 17 hours ago

Did the WaPo require the last paragraph to be added before it would publish the article? It's not as if it has any logical connection to what preceded it. And why does the blurb on the main digital page include a characterization that the author never made in the article? The WaPo continues to sink into the abyss of dishonest "journalism."

**Boog44** 16 hours ago

Where do you come up with crap like that? Go to Breitbart to find your level of "honest" journalism.

Like  17 Reply  Link  Report **Jannibal** 16 hours ago

I guess it didn't occur to you since you are evidently a supporter and admirer of the Heil Trump Fascist regime that the United States USED to stand for liberty, freedom and justice for ALL, particularly those persecuted for wanting to exercise the mere right of being a free human in a free society instead of being part of the Borg Collective.

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report **canadian but not necessarily always polite** 16 hours ago

I assume you enjoy Fox 'News' where the advertising is the only truthful portion of the 'show'.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report **LightlySaltedTarako** 17 hours ago

Is it really against the law to be born Iranian?

No, it is against the law to not be white and christian. The US is working on creating it's own religious laws so maybe you should stay in Britain for a while. At least while the white christian authoritarians are still in power in the US.

Like  8 Reply  Link  Report **Someone Somewhere** 16 hours ago

Sure, Boris.

A visit to Dulles airport or to a port of entry in El Paso will help rebut your bigoted assumption that only white Christian foreigners are admitted to America daily.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Jannibal** 16 hours ago

Guess you don't read much, do you, "Someone Somewhere." Of course, members of the Heil Trump Borg Collective don't have working brains anymore - you can use that as the excuse for your appalling ignorance.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Someone Somewhere** 16 hours ago *(Edited)*

You are funny, your references to Nazis shows that you have no argument at all.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**jmaddock2** 16 hours ago

The travel bans imposed by the donold are a representation of THAT manchild's insecurity and vindictive reprisal on anyone who has the temerity to oppose his repressive bigotry. If unchecked, how long will it be before he turns his authoritarian vile against our citizens. The present republican playbook dreadfully parallels that of the rise of FASCISM in 1930s Germany.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**PageTurner300** 12 hours ago

The last time I got off a plane at Dulles, it felt like I had landed in Mexico. It was literally a wall (no pun intended) of Hispanic people.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**glazeman** 17 hours ago



Please allow her to enter the US.  
Please send Trump to Iran.

Like 18 Reply Link Report



**jmaddock2** 16 hours ago

Send the donold to Antartica without shoes.

Like Reply Link Report



**kybo61** 17 hours ago

Stunning to realize that even a person of her accomplishments would likely be unwelcome in my country (United States) under the current administration. It shouldn't matter, of course; she, a farmer from Guatemala seeking a better life, and a family fleeing atrocities in Sudan ought to be welcomed equally and with a minimum of red tape. But we have created such a culture of xenophobia, white nationalism and and hatred of the "other" here that none of that will ever happen in my lifetime.

Still, I am joining with others to work until my dying breath to effect what change I can. With others, I am doing as much as possible to benefit immigrants, refugees, new Americans, migrants, the undocumented, and those who wish to enter my country for a better life. Before it gets said, I am not an "open borders" advocate. I wish there were no borders; but there are, and I cannot change that. It would be absurd to abandon all security protocol. However, our current system is causing so much suffering that this country is a humanitarian embarrassment on the global stage. We would be morally and spiritually bankrupt if we did not address that suffering collectively, forcefully and continuously.

Like 15 Reply Link Report



**Someone Somewhere** 16 hours ago

Lots of words, but the summary of what you want is open borders.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**Sartoris Marshall** 16 hours ago

That was your takeaway from an article about religious persecution?  
Huh, ok. Hey, this article isn't talking about what I want to talk about.....

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**jmaddock2** 15 hours ago

Based on your comments, you would be more comfortable in Russia .

Like Reply Link Report



**Jannibal** 16 hours ago

The people in control of our country at present ARE morally and spiritually bankrupt.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**ecguit1** 17 hours ago

"Is it really against the law to be born Iranian? We are also humans, you know."

Unfortunately to many Americans you are not human. In fact, no one from anywhere who does not look and believe exactly as they do is fully human.

Like 6 Reply Link Report



**freakymf** 16 hours ago

Not just to American - in Iran they don't see women as human, and not subject to the freedoms men enjoy. The nature of a regime like that, unfortunately.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Jannibal** 16 hours ago

Not even their own fellow citizens, ecguit1.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**ecguit1** 11 hours ago

Exactly! It's not as bad as Iran, but it would be if the fundamentalist holy rollers had their way.

Like Reply Link Report



**Eric Olson** 17 hours ago

I wish we knew how to help prevent this from terrorist governments. Unfortunately, the GOP wants to take us the same place with political conformity.

Like 11 Reply Link Report



**Cheeseman19** 17 hours ago

All our Mullahs gathered recently with the scum Trump for the National Nazi Prayer Breakfast. These people, like Jerry Falwell Jr. and Franklin Graham, are vicious racist homophobic scum...who believe they can tell women how to live. They are the sort of "Christians" who always wore their Sunday best and clutched their Bible to their breast...at crossburnings and lynchings of innocent Black men. Nothing lower in these United States...I have a higher opinion of factory raised pigs than I do of viciously racist Southern Baptists and other racist phony "Christians".

Like 14 Reply Link Report



**ecguit1** 17 hours ago

I have always found it incredibly interesting just how alike fundamentalist Jews, Christians and Muslims actually are.

Like 21 Reply Link Report



**SuperPuppy** 16 hours ago

Fundamentalist Jews do not throw gay men off roofs, etc.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**SoCalledVirginian** 16 hours ago

They shoot at Palestinian children playing soccer at the beach.

Like 1 Reply Link Report

**jmaddock2** 15 hours ago

They tolerate the Worlds largest concentration camp of GAZA.

Like Reply Link Report

**ecguit1** 11 hours ago

Neither do fundamentalist Christians...yet. I never said that Orthodox Jews, Christian conservatives, and strict Muslims were identical. I said they are alike. BIG difference.

Like Reply Link Report

**Pas\_de\_deux** 17 hours ago

The religious conservatives appeal to the baser instinct of the superstitious, under-educated class whom can be counted on to turn out and vote. The irony is, most of these politicians who run in the US with their hand on the bible are total hypocrites to the religion they profess to honor.

Iran will modernize, but it will take time. Until then, I hope the next Administration that comes in next year welcomes Ms. Shohreh Bayat. Lets try to return to being the beacon of hope and tolerance for the world.

Like 7 Reply Link Report

**Gandalf666** 17 hours ago

As long as Trump is in office and the Senate is controlled by the GOP, Ms. Bayat will never be able to defect to the US. Unfortunately, as long as Johnson is in office and Parliament is obsessed with Brexit, Ms. Bayat will probably not be able to defect to So-so Britain, unless she can prove she is a skilled worker and can prove she has a job waiting for her there.

## May I suggest France?

Like  2   Reply    Link    Report 



**RhodyRose** 17 hours ago *(Edited)*


For those advocating the overthrow of the current Iranian regime, remember that the the Iran nuclear deal negotiated by the Obama administration was designed to give breathing room to the enlightened Iranian middle class. Rather than violent overthrow, economic improvements and western influence would help to overcome the rabid conservatism of the regime. That's gone now.

Like  18   Reply    Link    Report 



**Mitchkeos** 17 hours ago *(Edited)*

Don't want to wear the hijab? Then don't. And throw off your ancient belief system, based on the musings of an ancient, invisible sky god, and join the 21st century.

Like    Reply    Link    Report 



**Alan Martin** 17 hours ago

The same could apply to Christians.

Like  12   Reply    Link    Report 



**Jackthelad** 17 hours ago *(Edited)*

You could say the same about anyone who lets their lives be ruled by superstition and belief in the supernatural - which is at the heart of all religions.

Like  7   Reply    Link    Report 



**ecguit1** 17 hours ago

Why are you advising her to do exactly what she has already done? That (and the consequences of her action) was kind of the point of the whole article.

Like  9   Reply    Link    Report 



**samgardner** 16 hours ago

You missed the "arrest" part? I don't think her wearing it has anything to do with her personal belief, but her personal safety.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**Lateral Line** 17 hours ago

Only freedom loving, action oriented Iranians can save Iran from the intolerant mullahs and oppressive regime that crushes the country bit by bit each passing day.

Like Reply Link Report



**Sue Zuki** 17 hours ago

Britain is indeed a great country. Crime is relatively low. Gun crime compared to the USA is virtually non existent outside the criminal fraternity. Luckily, religion is mainly confined to people not native to Britain. Most of the indigenous society since having thrown of the shackles of indoctrination a generation ago.

Good luck to Shohreh Bayat and welcome to a country where you are judged on your ability, not what sex you are and what piece of cloth you wear on your head.

P.S. What is it with religions and silly hats anyway?

Like 7 Reply Link Report



**Alan Martin** 17 hours ago

There is nothing about wearing a hijab in the Koran. The hijab or something like it has been worn by women in rural areas in the Middle East for like thousands of years. Look at a portrayal of the Virgin Mary. A lot of Iran's problems are actually similar to ours - rural conservative religious fanatics imposing their "values" on urban populations.

Like 12 Reply Link Report



**Foghorn Frenchorn** 18 hours ago *(Edited)*

First of all, great sympathy to the women who suffer under these conditions. There's a fascinating story about an ISIS bride from Texas (google it) who went to Syria briefly and she was wearing a headscarf, not a niqab or burqa, and the ISIS men harangued her "do you WANT to be raped?" That's next-level messed up.

So good on this woman for breaking free from her situation despite her high profile. Unlike the many glorified economic migrants we see in the US, she would possibly be a legit asylum claim here. I still don't understand why American progressives don't spend more time advocating for these truly suffering women. Worried about being cultural imperialists, maybe?

But this is just stupid:

Is it really against the law to be born Iranian? We are also humans, you know.

The article had nothing to do with the US. Besides, if it was against the law to be Iranian, we'd be arresting the many thousands of Iranians and Iranian Americans already here. Is the only way to recognize a group's humanity to let all comers in without regard to security? Nah...

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**LightlySaltedTarako** 17 hours ago

Is the only way to recognize a group's humanity to let all comers in without regard to security?

No, but why create overly restrictive immigration rules to keep people out when we actually need more immigration to shore up our economy? "Open borders" is a straw man.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**A Regular Joe** 18 hours ago

No disrespect intended, but I don't understand why women would willingly

NO DISRESPECT INTENDED, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WOMEN WOULD WILINGLY subject themselves to a religion whose followers would oppress them in such a way and possibly even KILL them over a minor wardrobe malfunction. That's ridiculous.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Doug Earl** 17 hours ago

Do some reading.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Verba gratis** 17 hours ago

Or he could just read and reflect on his own words. When women are born and raised in a country where they can be oppressed or killed over a minor wardrobe malfunction, they're being trained to submit right out of the gate.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**ThanksForTheFish** 18 hours ago

What a disjointed article. It's almost entirely about the repression of Iran and the evil of their leaders. England is a great country and it seems this woman has received at least temporary asylum. So why the backhanded swipe at the US? The "we're humans too" ends the story so abruptly that it makes me wonder if some copy editor either added it on their own, or cut off a whole second half of the article.

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**Verba gratis** 17 hours ago

Because currently a woman from Iran would have a difficult time even entering our country, much less seeking asylum here. Blame the bigoted orange creep whose been stinking up our White House.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**ThanksForTheFish** 17 hours ago



Yes yes trump bad.

The ENTIRE article is about Iran, except for the last 2-3 sentences.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**William** 18 hours ago

This was such a poignant and beautiful essay. I love the game of chess (though I'm not good at it) and think it's a wonderful way to see how much we have in common. I'm also going to think about this essay whenever I hear or read that women in the Islamic world all "want" to wear a hijab, as if they have a real choice.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Fix the Glitch** 18 hours ago

This is why normal Americans and normal Iranians reject rule by religious conservatives.

Like 6 Reply Link Report



**Doug Earl** 17 hours ago

Are you kidding? Your government is full of religious conservatives, or people who find their greatest support there. The steadily increasing difficulty of getting an abortion is an illustration and Roe v Wade is about to be toppled by them. All elected by normal Americans.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**Fix the Glitch** 17 hours ago

Actually that's exactly what I'm talking about.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Skippy De Bushroo** 17 hours ago *(Edited)*

Well, why do Americans keep electing religious conservatives? From mayors

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post and on up, riddled with religious conservatives, most of them nutters.

Guess the 'abnormal' Americans outweigh the 'normal' Americans.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Pas\_de\_deux** 17 hours ago

Because they (the religious conservatives) appeal to the baser instinct of the superstitious, under-educated class whom can be counted on to turn out and vote. The irony is, most of these politicians who run in the US with their hand on the bible are total hypocrites.

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**Outrigger1** 18 hours ago

Yes Iranians are humans too. Trump not so much. Still trump is a product of misogyny, much like you experience in Iranian men.

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**CriticalThinker** 18 hours ago

Squirrel!

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Ron Long Island NY** 18 hours ago

Kudos. Embrace the world and the diversity that makes us all stronger.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Lovethelake** 18 hours ago

It's not that you were born in Iran it's that's we have a moron for a president who is a bigot. Hopefully in November you will be welcomed here by our government. You are very brave . Good luck .

Like  8 Reply  Link  Report 



**Joa Falken** 18 hours ago

Suppressed noations must at some point ut their energy into revolt. If everyone strives for asylum primarily, that will not happen.

I know that is ealisy said from abrouad, knowing that the death penalty is quite widespread in Iran, also for actiities that are fully legal elsewhere.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**AcesNoTrump** 18 hours ago

Once again it is the oppression by religion in another country that points out the brilliant gift our founders gave us in the First Amendment - Freedom from Religion.

Let's not throw it away.

Keep Church and State separate.

Dump Trump 2020

Like 21 Reply Link Report



**Wyeth-NJ** 18 hours ago

Too bad the founders did not add another clause to the First Amendment: keep morons and State separate

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**NelsonVB** 18 hours ago

The reason you aren't invited into our house is because your countrymen chant "death to America" and employ its military to actually carry it out. When they aren't slaughtering all your home county's neighbors.

Im struggling to find the part in your column where you protest this. I can't, because this is a string of "me, me, me" whining from a privileged member of the Iranian homicidal regime.

Which raises another immigration question- we often refuse unaccompanied pre-teens, Which seems to be your mental age.



Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Pas\_de\_deux** 18 hours ago

Nelson, seriously...get help.

Like  12 Reply  Link  Report 



**Lovethelake** 18 hours ago

Wow . What an ugly rant . Should I hold you responsible for the killings of school children by other White males?

Like  9 Reply  Link  Report 



**NelsonVB** 12 hours ago

Remember all the way back to the Soleimani hit? When MSNBC et al where breathlessly expecting imminent Iranian retaliation, including from “Iranian Republican National Guard cells in the United States”?

Refusing to hand out visas to regimes that position terrorist cells in our country is pretty much a basic function of a government. Get the social security checks out on time, don't fast-track foreign murderers.

Assuming you recall this episode you should probably concede that the biggest concern regarding Iran currently is not how the heightened tensions minimally impact the regime's globe-trotting chess aficionados.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Skippy De Bushroo** 17 hours ago

How many Americans are chanting 'death to Iranians' do ya think? Your president more or less does it on Twitter regularly and many American warmongers have done the same.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Pas\_de\_deux** 18 hours ago

You committed the original sin of all religions, you developed logic and critical thinking. No religion can survive the onslaught of these two qualities.

I apologize for the United States at this point. You should be welcome here with open arms. But as in Iran, we have an ignorant and repressive government at this time (fear not, we are working to correct this in November).

I hope to meet you one day in St. Louis, Missouri (my home town) at the World Chess Hall Of Fame.

Like  10 Reply  Link  Report 

---



**Spiritpaws** 18 hours ago

It is difficult to read many of the comments posted about this article. The lack of compassion is frankly appalling, and the narrow-mindedness truly Trumpian.

How does our country cure itself of mean-ness, indifference, and self centeredness?

Like  10 Reply  Link  Report 

---



**Pas\_de\_deux** 18 hours ago

We vote. We educated.

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 

---



**pjhcanuck** 19 hours ago

Try Canada, a country will high tolerance and a large Iranian population allowing you a chance to assimilate.

Good luck with your hopes and dreams.

Like  8 Reply  Link  Report 

---



**WJohn72** 19 hours ago

All religions are bad, but some are worse than others.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**sukynsyn** 19 hours ago

"I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran..."

You did WHAT?

Like Reply Link Report



**hahahareally** 19 hours ago

As I write to you, I am in Britain — a lovely country, where I have received much kindness and generosity from the chess community. I don't know what the future holds.

Ah. You've been denied asylum in Britain. Right.

So while many countries will offer asylum for political reasons, virtually none can legally offer asylum for religious reasons. The most prominent one that can — the United States — is currently not accepting Muslim refugees for all intents and purposes.

While I don't support the hijab, I'm also not certain that this is the international community's problem. Outside pressure on Islam has done little except to radicalize it.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**zalana** 19 hours ago

Try New Zealand

Like Reply Link Report



**hahahareally** 18 hours ago

I believe, being a Commonwealth nation, New Zealand similarly does not grant asylum on the basis of religious persecution.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**zalana** 18 hours ago

I don't think you are correct on any count.

read

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/audiences/supporting-refugees-and-asylum-seekers/asylum-seekers>

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**hahahareally** 18 hours ago

Oh, no I am correct on every count. Cheers for doing the research, though.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**Skippy De Bushroo** 17 hours ago *(Edited)*

No, you are wrong on all counts and you've done no research. You probably didn't even read the link, preferring to bask in your arrogance and ignorance.

See here.

Recognition as a refugee in New Zealand

New Zealand is a signatory to the United Nations 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees ("Refugee Convention"), and the United Nations 1967 Protocol to that Convention. A refugee is defined by the Refugee Convention, as amended by the 1967 Protocol, as a person who

"owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, **religion**, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country ..."

To paraphrase Mark Twain, best to not say anything and let others think you're a fool rather than open your mouth and remove all doubt. All I can say to your comments is hahaha ... really?

Ignored.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**lego jenn** 18 hours ago *(Edited)*

Commonwealth membership has no impact on a country's contemporary laws. It's an organisation with maybe one exception whose members were once British colonies. The UK or any other member has no power to legislate for another.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**hahahareally** 14 hours ago

Correct, but most Commonwealth nations work on the underlying basis of the Common Law. Even the United States does to some extent. But that also means that Commonwealth nations borrow pieces of the frameworks of United Kingdom laws such as the immigration policies which specifically do not allow for asylum on the basis of religion/religious persecution. Because this is typically also a function of political persecution or retribution, there's rarely any issue for would-be immigrants fleeing religious persecution (e.g. Iraqi Christians). But there's no allowances for someone like Bayat who is not (yet) being politically persecuted; which I suspect would be a reason her asylum application would be denied.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**truthstrangerthanfiction** 19 hours ago

Sometimes the best option is to overthrow your government and create a new one that doesn't force you to adhere to a religious dress code anymore.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Lady slipper** 18 hours ago

Spot on ! Change comes from within, or you can flee and leave others to spill blood and fix your country.

Like Reply Link Report



**Voter01** 19 hours ago

Glad you wrote this. So many people in this country have had their hair in a knot over the US position with Iran the last few years. Now they seem to be paying attention.

Like 4 Reply Link Report



**GreenCrayon** 19 hours ago

In my thoughts, I give you asylum and freedom. If I could do so in person, I would.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**zalana** 19 hours ago

Try being Bahá'í in Iran. Did you think wearing the misogynist uniform was the worst thing that could happen to you? Yes they will imprison you if you go home. So leave that poisoned land to its fate. But did you even think of the many facets of oppression the Bahá'í's are subjected to everyday, while you hated that silly hat. Things can be worse...

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Bob S.** 19 hours ago *(Edited)*

Aww, how cute. The little misogynist children have come out to play!

'Since I don't share or give a crap about your problems, I shall denigrate them and you.'

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**zalana** 19 hours ago

You are a seriously stupid person...did you learn that or were you born like it?

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**Bob S.** 19 hours ago

Taught it at the feet of wise elders much like yourself!

:)

Like Reply Link Report



**zalana** 18 hours ago

Look up the oppression of the Bahá'í faith in Iran. You will find that among their sins is the belief in the emancipation of women...then think a bit and you just might get the point. I won't hold my breath

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Bob S.** 18 hours ago *(Edited)*

Yes, you have made it clear that only one problem matters to you, and all others are minor inconveniences experienced by shallow persons of little significance. How very thoughtful.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**AmericanIndian** 19 hours ago

The age of Trump has unleashed an unstoppable river of dummies and idiots. Many of the comments here are from those damaged "people". This lady is telling us something important and revealing that not everyone can just up and go away from where they spent their entire life. This is real courage in the face of certain condemnation and here, below we have the New Schmuck City Players vomiting their "comments". Americans have never appeared more stupid than they do now. I wish her great good fortune, and the advice to stay away from the USA.



**wp comments** 19 hours ago

Is it really Is it really against the law to be born Iranian? You missed the point, US policy is to benefit the US, work on fixing your country

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**zalana** 19 hours ago

Work on fixing your constitution...it is severely broken.

Is that tweaking your cognitive dissonance enough?

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**thrasonical trump** 19 hours ago

What part(s) of our Constitution is broken?

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**zalana** 19 hours ago

See you have already started to think....but soon the dissonance will kick in. You will feel better soon.

But:

Gerrymandering

Disenfranchisement of people who live outside of states (Puerto Rico)

No Federal laws governing electoral rolls, voting practices, counting and auditing.

Discrimination of racial and ethnic groups in electoral access

Infiltration of the Judiciary by political forces

and on and on and on...

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**thrasonical trump** 19 hours ago

Thanks for making me think. I couldn't have done it without you.

Like 1 Reply Link Report

**samgardner** 15 hours ago

While I agree all of those are problems, saying "fix the Constitution" is misplaced, I think. It's not like the Consitution requires gerrymandering, for instance (and we used to have the VRA to prevent electoral discrimination). Disenfranchisement is a little controversial, but it's worthwhile pointing out that PR, at least, has had the opportunity many times to vote for statehood and therefore enfranchise themselves.

One could, of course, address those issues via Constitutional amendment, if that's what you meant. However, it is not the **ONLY** way, and is likely not the most efficient way, to solve these problems.

Like Reply Link Report

**Skippy De Bushroo** 17 hours ago

You should see it from over here. It's glaringly obvious, and if you don't have a clue and need to ask a non-American, you're not thinking hard enough.

Like Reply Link Report

**Kevindcox** 19 hours ago

Become a Trumper and play checkers

Like 4 Reply Link Report

**hawkeye7** 20 hours ago

" Chess requires logic and critical thinking" So how could you possibly believe in a religion that defies logic and critical thinking?



**almostmaryland** 19 hours ago

Um, that criticism applies to all religions, not just Islam.

Like 5 Reply Link Report



**wp comments** 19 hours ago

religion is not the issue, iran is

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**zalana** 19 hours ago

Nah mate it is religion!

Like 6 Reply Link Report



**thrasonical trump** 19 hours ago

Iran and 'religion' are synonymous.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Skippy De Bushroo** 17 hours ago

If you'd have bothered to read, or perhaps comprehended, the article, you would know that it was the logic and critical thinking she'd learnt playing chess that led her to start questioning her religion. But obviously, you missed that.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**TonyB59** 20 hours ago

Enjoy Britain and keep the Stone Age beliefs and practices in Iran...

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Vision67** 20 hours ago



Why do Muslim women tolerate the blatant misogyny?

They should revolt. Deny men the one thing that they truly need!

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**RedGrrrl** 19 hours ago

Lysistrata.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**zalana** 19 hours ago *(Edited)*

They have their goats

<https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20070808160947AAxTenr>

Like Reply Link Report



**karl5609** 20 hours ago

Not my problem.

Keep your third world problems in the third world.

Like 4 Reply Link Report



**William Payne** 20 hours ago

Where's your humanity?

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**karl5609** 20 hours ago

Boo hoo.

The only way to continue with the quality of life that Americans enjoy, is by not diluting it by sharing the wealth with the ever growing population of needy people.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Skippy De Bushroo** 17 hours ago

The quality of life that white wealthy Americans enjoy, that is. Screw the rest of them, huh, Karl? A typical American with a typical Americo-centric mindset. I'm alright Jack, so screw the rest of you.

Like Reply Link Report



**almostmaryland** 19 hours ago

If you think Persia is third world, you have no clue.

The Iranian regime is abhorrent. The Iranian people are highly educated and heirs to one of the great cultures and civilizations of the world.

Like 6 Reply Link Report



**karl5609** 19 hours ago

Fine, I will re-word my statement just for you.

Im American, I have everything that I need, I dont want to share it, and I dont care about the rest of the world and I dont feel guilty in the least.

Fix your own situation or die, I dont care which.

Not my problem.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**RedGrrrl** 19 hours ago

Oh, what a gift to the world you are.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**karl5609** 19 hours ago

Someone has to counter you carebears from giving everything away to every beggar that happens by.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Skippy De Bushroo** 17 hours ago

The classic self-important, self-centred, self-interested, self-absorbed American brat with no humility, empathy or understanding. Ignored.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**samgardner** 15 hours ago

Your psychopathy will not save you from death.

Like Reply Link Report



**karl5609** 15 hours ago

Who cares.

Your sympathy will lead to yours.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**David Horowitz** 20 hours ago

This report literally filled my eyes with tears. It is so difficult to see what normal Iranian people have to endure for the sake of the high priests who monitor all activity. When I was in the university here in the USA, some sixty years ago, I met Iranian students. We conversed about the similarities and differences of being Iranian and American, in my case, Jewish-American. He, my friend, interjected that young Iranians and young Jews had something in common. He felt that young Iranians, like young Jews, were highly sexed. I don't know whether this is true or not. It is certainly not true for me now that I am in my eighties. Maybe it was true back then. Could this be the root of the Iranian dilemma. The Iranian male doesn't trust himself, so he constricts his environment by putting pressure on the female of the sex to alleviate the need for his own self-control. Perhaps the Iranians could become more hospitable to the rest of the world by permitting more normal inter-actions between men and women. If the Iranian male could learn to trust himself by engaging in activities that would satisfy his natural impulses without being threatening to others, we would all benefit. Religion is ok in moderation but really the lord of the universe

is not standing by with a notebook taking down every thing we do or say. We would all benefit if they learned to trust themselves to be decent human beings. The Iranian female is a lovely person. She should not be tormented like the narrator describes. Yes, sometimes people do make mistakes in their relationships with others but we learn from our mistakes and become or should become better persons, even better chess players.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**co-nordic** 21 hours ago *(Edited)*

Why not try Sweden or some other Nordic country? We have only good experiences of Iranian refugees/immigrants. The only way they have "terrorized" us is by beating us in areas where we really thought we were #1 in the world like pop music (Laleh Pourkarim) and film making (Reza Bagher).

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**M.Ayub** 21 hours ago

You have a bourgeois problem, shohreh Khanum

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**AmericanIndian** 19 hours ago

Ayub....you have replaced your brain with a broken toilet, a problem perhaps?

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Skippy De Bushroo** 17 hours ago

Classic.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Bob S.** 19 hours ago

Poor M.Ayub...

A little lost in the big ol' Internet, are we? If you can't handle discussions of bourgeois problems, perhaps the website of the largest newspaper in the

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post capital of the United States of America ain't where you should be hanging out. They're definitely gonna come up every now & then.

:~)

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**SBG Y** 21 hours ago

Is it really against the law to be born Iranian? We are also humans, you know.

Your real "crime" was being born female.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 




**weasley1** 21 hours ago

Is it really against the law to be born Iranian?

In Trump's oddly distorted universe it can be against the law to be born American.

Many countries lose their way at some point in their history, America included. Perhaps that's the true test of America's heart and soul – her ability to withstand a storm, and find her way back to the ideals instilled by the thoughtful and forward looking Founders.

America will recover, and reason, justice and equality will be restored. It will take time, though. It's heartening to know that other countries and cultures will embrace political refugees – that in America's absence there are places to turn.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**MannyRay3000** 21 hours ago

so what are your thoughts on the article? About what she is enduring as a woman in Iran?

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**danigo** 22 hours ago

There is something very neurotic about this regime and its interference in personal liberties of its citizens. One can only feel sadness and sympathy for those who endure it. But is this the reason why we, the USA, have to impose sanctions? Of course not. Imposing sanctions is just as neurotic as interfering with personal liberties.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Attractive Nuisance** 23 hours ago

Please know, not all Americans think that. Indeed most of us do not. The Trump administration is a pox on our country—it does not define us. If you came to America you could stay in my house. I know there are millions of Americans who would similarly personally take you in.

Like 9 Reply Link Report



**SpiritWinds** 23 hours ago

If a father puts a sack on his head, could you call him Bagdad? Asking for a friend...

Like 5 Reply Link Report



**CALBlueGoldBruin** 23 hours ago

Thanks for the 11:37 P.M. PST Laugh!

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**NativeColoradan** 23 hours ago

So sorry that this is happening to you.

Like 5 Reply Link Report



**bobswirled** 23 hours ago





Well, you'll be much better off if you scrape that medieval Muslim hellhole off your shoes and live in a civilized country.

Like 4 Reply Link Report



**CALBlueGoldBruin** 23 hours ago

Well, she IS currently seeking residency in The UK...First Step to FREEDOM !

Like 5 Reply Link Report



**bobswirled** 23 hours ago

You're right: "if" should read "when" in my comment.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Attractive Nuisance** 23 hours ago *(Edited)*

There is nothing wrong with the hijab. It is only a problem when it is forced upon you.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**chimene13** 19 hours ago

everything is wrong with the hijab. If you are not aware of this evidence, i will not spent my energy to explain it to you but leave you in your ignorance or bigotisme

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**samgardner** 15 hours ago

I think what AN is saying is that there's nothing wrong with it if the women wear it by choice. And there isn't – it can be an attractive garment. Essentially it's a shawl.

Like Reply Link Report



**CALBlueGoldBruin** 23 hours ago *(Edited)*



Thank You for stating what anyone who possesses any vestige of Common Sense realizes: The Hijab is a Form of "constant misogynistic OPPRESSION".

Why the HELL else would you force Women to wear a Black Wrap around their heads ( and bodies ) in the Middle of the Blistering Sunny Desert !?

( OBVIOUSLY to cook their Brains & Force their Will into submission!)

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Verba gratis** 23 hours ago *(Edited)*

I find most women's swimwear to be oppressive, to be honest, and I have a feeling many women would agree. I go to the beach or the pool to swim, not to flash yards of skin at complete strangers. And almost nobody looks good or feels comfortable in those high-legged suits with the elastic that magically transforms two cheeks into four.

So I shop online and order sturdy, well made bathing suits with skirts or shorts that will hold up well in the surf and ensure that my belly, upper thighs, etc. remain my own business. But they're definitely not the standard uniform, and it took me a while to drum up the courage and make the switch.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**SpiritWinds** 23 hours ago

Be careful that the sharks don't mistake you for a seal, dear.....

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Verba gratis** 22 hours ago

Yeah, I try to keep an eye on my surroundings. Once in Florida I saw schools of fish leaping like crazy out of the water, and I hustled the family out of the ocean right now, right now, right now. Something was surely chasing all those fish, and yep, about five minutes later, a surfer was attacked by a shark near a pier maybe 50 yards from where we'd been swimming.

And I'd look like an unusually floral seal. I think it's wet suits that pose the most danger there, and I only wear wet suits for very special occasional adventures. Plus, I'm a body surfer, not a board surfer, so I don't go out as far into the deeper water.

These days I tend to worry more about flesh-eating virus; such is the state of our planet.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**parapluie7** 1 day ago

I have never really understood the hijab. It covers hair. What is it about hair? Everyone has it. If the hijab is about respect for God, then why don't men have to wear a head covering? Other religions have traditions of covering your head when entering a church or temple. That is for respect for their God. So it remains that the hijab is for men to control women. And that is wrong.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**bajacalla** 23 hours ago

what about the wigs that Orthodox Jewish women are required to wear? is Judaism a controlling religion? how about the caps that Mennonite and Amish women wear? are those controlling religions? how about the habits that some nuns still have to wear? is Catholicism a controlling religion?

Like  7 Reply  Link  Report 



**Verba gratis** 23 hours ago

It can extend to men, too. There are indeed sects in the U.S. in which the men are forbidden to shave, they must style their hair a certain way, they must wear big heavy hats and dark clothing even in the hottest months of summer, and so forth. If they step out of line, they might be shunned by the community or even disowned by their own families.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 

**Uncle Vlads Guide to Useful Idiots** 23 hours ago *(Edited)*

I know you are asking rhetorically, but those questions have answers which are nuanced and important.

I will answer one of them: some ultra-orthodox Jewish sects place restrictions on women that exceed those imposed by Iran. The difference is that they are not enforced by a state authority. A woman who wants to escape them can do so – if she is willing to give up her only source of support, lose all contact with her family and friends, including any children she has, and adopt a way of life that she has been raised to see as an abomination. Remarkably, some women do this.

Like 5 Reply Link Report

**CALBlueGoldBruin** 23 hours ago

Ah, Religio-Freakos are everywhere !

Like 6 Reply Link Report

**beboplvr** 22 hours ago

Bajacalla

As a Catholic (admittedly a poor one 😊), I have to say nuns have lots of choices. Some orders are more lenient than others. And women can freely choose not to be nuns. No woman in Iran can choose to not be female.

Israeli women can leave their orthodox faith behind and live freely in Israeli society. Women are free to leave the Amish. In fact they're explicitly given the opportunity as teenagers. Women have no such choice in Iran. They have to leave the country entirely.

But, to your point: yes, ultraconservative religions are controlling. That's pretty much one of the points of rigid religious belief. And women are always more controlled than men in any religion I know of.

That being said, your what-about-ism is pretty tired. As in, you know, 2 wrongs don't make a right.

Like 4 Reply Link Report



**Amy Hourihan** 21 hours ago

Yes. The answers to all of your questions. Yes!

Like Reply Link Report



**chimene13** 19 hours ago

of course they are

Like Reply Link Report



**Scrabitz** 19 hours ago

Bajacalla: Yup, pretty much.

Like Reply Link Report



**Scrabitz** 19 hours ago

Bajacalla: Yup, pretty much

Like Reply Link Report



**RedGrrrl** 19 hours ago

Yes, all of them.

Like Reply Link Report



**samgardner** 15 hours ago

Yes? Why would you think that forced wig-wearing is any better than hijabs (honestly, I think it's worse). And they're all controlling religions.

Like Reply Link Report



**Martini Prince** 1 day ago

Don't worry, soon you will be afraid to stay here too

Don't worry, soon you will be afraid to stay here too.

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**Mighty Amazon Keyboard Warrior Princess** 1 day ago

And to think modern American women wear those stupid things.

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**Verba gratis** 1 day ago

If they're wearing them by choice, I don't have a problem with it. They're surely no stupider than high-heeled shoes.

But Ms. Bayat clearly doesn't like the hijab, and wearing something else should be her choice as well.

Like  7 Reply  Link  Report 



**chimene13** 19 hours ago

no choice if you are victim of brain washing since you are born. You are a female, you are an object of perversion, you must cover your hair otherwise men get hot, when you have your periods, you are impure and cannot touch anybody, and so on; try to learn that to you children from small on, you'll see the results. Only very strong personalities can make them free from all this negative perception of the women and themselves.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**IceAger** 1 day ago

It's a big world. If Iran doesn't suit you, leave it and don't look back. Pick a place where you can truly thrive.

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**bajacalla** 23 hours ago

hmm. it's a big world. and yet, 9/11 happened. and Putin's "KGB" still murders people. the world isn't so big any more.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Qin Shi Huang** 1 day ago

Won't be long before the religious conservatives in this country will be demanding that women wear hijabs.

Like  9 Reply  Link  Report 



**America\_Wins\_When\_Trump\_Loses** 1 day ago

I'm waiting for them to make chastity belts the standard.

Like  7 Reply  Link  Report 



**klexpat** 1 day ago

Especially if the trumper is around.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Lizard Person** 1 day ago

This woman is obviously a dissenter.

She dissents with the government of her country.

She also dissents with her religion that forces her to wear hijabs she thinks (arguably so) are demeaning and unattractive.

She is the kind of person the United States used to welcome. From the Soviet Union, from Eastern Germany, from wherever human beings are being oppressed.

As it stands she is forbidden to come in the United States altogether because of her nationality.

This country has taken a turn for the worse. Sadly.

Like  39 Reply  Link  Report 



**shriekingviolet** 1 day ago

Oh, my dear Ms. Bayat, my heart aches for you, and for all women living in oppressive societies. We still have so very far to go.

Like 8 Reply Link Report



**The Flying Spaghetti Monster** 1 day ago

One of the most amazing sights that I have ever seen was on a business trip to Yerevan, Armenia. Just after our plane had landed and we were going through customs and immigration formalities a plane arrived from Teheran. As the women from that flight disembarked almost every one of them tore off their hijabs as fast as they could. Underneath that hideous garb were some of the most attractive and fashionable women imaginable. I just felt sorry that most of them had to return.

Like 8 Reply Link Report



**M Cole** 1 day ago

Dear Shohrey Bayat.

I guess it is unlikely as hell that you will actually read all these comments and ever see my query, but I am curious about something. In Iran are men and women allowed to compete together in chess tournaments? How about other Muslim countries. I am assuming, perhaps unfairly, that many Muslim men would not be good sports if they get soundly beat by a girl.

Hell, I have seen that phenomenon at the chess club in Nassau County, Long Island, generally with older men. If they lose to a woman, or a young boy or girl, their congratulations seems just a BIT forced and formulaic rather than sincere.

I am never a bad sport, but I notice an interesting psychological phenomenon when I play a young child, either boy or girl. There are MANY very bright kids who play amazing chess these days. Unlike myself they grew up with powerful computers to practice with and access to the world's grandmaster chess games available at the click of a mouse. I find it psychologically odd sometimes to beat



Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
a young child, particularly if it is the kind of position that I cannot win with simple technique but requires me to try to aggressively attack. I won a game a couple years ago against an 11 year old Chinese girl. I had to constantly remind myself, "DON'T be gentle, she is as tough as you are. She will kill you if you make one careless mood." It felt emotionally odd to beat her. But she would not have respected me if she won and then suspected that I had been reluctant to play my best. The game could easily have gone the other way.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Radical Pragmatist** 1 day ago

In Iran are men and women allowed to compete together in chess tournaments?

There is no physical advantage for men playing chess against women. Women's tournaments exist because the best women can't beat the best men.

I'm not making a value judgment one way or another. It just is because it is...

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**M Cole** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Right. But there are, of course, woman or even young girls who can beat all but the extremely good male players. I was wondering how that goes over in Iran. Grandmaster Judit Polgar, at her peak rating, was number six in the world. Never got quite good enough to threaten Kasparov, but number six in the world is not bad.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Radical Pragmatist** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Grandmaster Judit Polgar, at her peak rating, was number six in the world. Never got quite good enough to threaten Kasparov, but number six in the world is not bad.

Fine with me then. Just abandon the contrived Women's Grand Master circuit and let all comers compete regardless of gender.

BTW, if I were a female player, I wouldn't want it any other way.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Verba gratis** 22 hours ago

I'm guessing that it's got little to do with innate intelligence, and much to do with men having more free time than women to practice the game.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**EXPAT4** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

I really feel sorry for this remarkable woman. I also beseech her to apply for asylum in the US.

Iran, what a wild and zany bunch of Crackpots/Headbangers!

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Oppenheimer1948** 1 day ago

Beautiful and poignant. May the doors be opened for spiritual development: may the central channel be found again by everyone.

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**Lgparkes** 1 day ago

Well said, Ms. Bayat — I wish you the best in all that your future holds.

Like  11 Reply  Link  Report 



**I need a pint** 1 day ago

Shohreh Bayat, I would love to give you all of my support. Still, there is one catch. How do we sort out the rotten raisins in a 10 pound bag? Bite into handfuls and wince and spit out the rotten?

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post

Islam has an agenda. That's to establish a shariah world within the world they live in. Never mind all others. Our government is trying to sort out that mentality, and keep it it out. Not hugely successful though. Go to Detroit or Buffalo, or other rust belt towns, and you find little Mecca all round, where a normal American female will be totally out of place. Shariaization is mushrooming all around us in dots. Do the rest of us like that? That's Trump's base and success. However, I wish you well. Hope a Western country welcomes you and helps you to live a normal life. Iran is a beautiful country, and your people are mostly gracious. To grapple with Islam and shariah, I will never want to live there even as a male.

Like  8 Reply  Link  Report 



**Diane - Flint Michigan** 1 day ago

Huh? I go to Detroit. I'm not totally normal but I'm not out of place. Muslin people are perfectly human you know.

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 



**I need a pint** 1 day ago

Diane, did I say all of Detroit? Check out your backyards in Dearborn and Hamtramck, for a test drive. Yes, they are all humans in their own way. So, is Trump.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Whattheheckisgoingon** 1 day ago

Yes, you did say all of Detroit and Buffalo, because you did not say, in little parts of the Detroit and Buffalo areas, or some similar more specific claim.

However, I do not share your fear of Sharia law anymore, and probably less then I fear the implementation of Christian Law that is anything but Christian. I am an American and a Christian, but the law I desire to live under is the Constitution, not made up ideas that aren't represented by the words of Christ and forced upon me by people that wear faith on

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
THEIR SLEEVES BUT DO NOT LIVE BY THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS.

You lump all of Islamic people into the categories defined by those who benefit by preaching fear and hatred.

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 18 hours ago

"I do not share your fear of Sharia law anymore"

You do know that non-Muslims don't have equal rights with Muslims under Sharia (Allah's law from Quran).

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**webg** 1 day ago

Clearly you're unwilling to give Ms. Bayat your full support. You claim to wish her well in finding a country that welcomes her. You could start by welcoming her to America. "Shariaization is mushrooming all around us in dots." Really? Your words are an affront to religious tolerance, the very thing you seem to value. Too often religious minorities in this country have faced accusations of invading, mushrooming, infiltrating, brainwashing, poisoning. Such ugly accusations tend to turn religious minorities in America into pariahs. The accusations stoke fear and hatred. In America we must send the message that Muslims are as welcome in our midst as Christians or Jews or atheists, while emphasizing that violent radicals and abusers of any faith are not welcome. Your words tell Americans to fear all Muslims, including American Muslims. Fear carries a moral cost, for both the afraid and the feared.

Trump famously said we should ban Muslims visitors, though he later put a veneer of respectability on that promise by just banning people from key Muslim countries. He also said that "thousands" of Muslims in New Jersey celebrated on 9/11, which was a lie. Compare that to George W. Bush who emphasized that America is against terrorism, not Muslims.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 

**America\_Wins\_When\_Trump\_Loses** 1 day ago

Muslims in the US represent about 1% of the total population. I fear less from Muslims than I do with Christians who are trying desperately to take away women's rights and follow a non-believer as if he were God himself.

Like 7 Reply Link Report

**Verba gratis** 23 hours ago *(Edited)*

Did you seriously just compare this woman to a raisin in a ten-pound bag?

I don't see Islam as being all that different from Christianity in that they're both religions made of people, and people tend to vary. A lot. None of the Muslims I've ever met has pushed Sharia law. In my experience, Muslims in the U.S. have most often come here to escape oppressive religious tyranny in their countries of birth. Once they're here, they tend to want to mind their own business, not cause any trouble, and not be hassled.

Having grown up in America, however, I've encountered numerous pushy Christians (or "christians," as is often the case nowadays). Again, not all of them are that way; the best ones tend to want to mind their own business and not cause trouble.

But sometimes that is NOT the case, and if there were ever a religion with an agenda for our country, the "christians" are the biggest offenders by far. The most radical want us all to worship as they do, want our kids indoctrinated in even tax-funded schools (a clear violation of our Constitution), want to pass laws restricting women's personal medical decisions, and want to poke their noses into the marriages of people whom, in most cases, they've never even met. And in hoping to accomplish all this the "christians" have aligned themselves with Donald Trump, a truly dangerous, angry, unwell beast of a man who wouldn't feel love if it bit him.

And yes, there are women in the U.S. of several religions who wear long, hot, concealing uniforms and head coverings that you or I would likely find oppressive. There are also American women who are trained and pressured to have maximum babies, regardless of whether their bodies or minds can handle repeated childbirth and whether or not they truly want quite so many

children.

I find it odd that you're jumping on this woman about Islam when she's clearly been hassled enough, and when she likely has more in common with you than you've even bothered to consider.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 17 hours ago

"I don't see Islam as being all that different from Christianity in that they're both religions."

And there the similarity ends. You don't know what you're talking about.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Verba gratis** 16 hours ago

Thanks for proving my point with such pointed brevity.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 16 hours ago

What's your point?

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**The Villages** 1 day ago

Go to Israel, study, dress as you will, drive, work, vote and marry who you choose (male or female or other variations)

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Radical Pragmatist** 1 day ago

Of course as a non-Jew, you'll be considered human garbage consigned to do the dirty work.

But whatever works...

Like  7 Reply  Link  Report 



**Donald Skipper** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

"garbage"

No dear, it's just you. And not only in Israel, but everywhere you go, because you just can't help creating that impression. It's the things you say and the way you act. It's a shame, but until you accept you have a problem, no amount of help will make a difference.

Meanwhile, in the real world... Stay strong, Shohreh Bayat, and know that you may depend on the strength of so many others to support you and sustain you.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Darwin2626** 1 day ago

This seems like a sick response to a deeply touching story.

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**parapluie7** 1 day ago

But not if you are Palestinian!

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Verba gratis** 23 hours ago

Or Iranian, I'm guessing.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Power2ThePeople** 1 day ago

It is terrible that America no longer portrays itself to the world as a beacon of freedom and tolerance. Shame, Shame, Shame on the current godless, soulless, craven, and pathetic administration.

Like  26 Reply  Link  Report 



**BLACKCAT66** 19 hours ago

Bigger shame on every single person that still supports him. To this day I think there is a special place in hell for the producers of The Apprentice. They dusted off a mentally deranged criminal and put him in front of cameras to play a fake successful billionaire and refused to air the out takes of the show during his campaign that would have captured his extreme racism, drug use and mental impairments. They more than anyone else could have really brought him down early but they were cowards.

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**KWombles** 1 day ago

You should be welcome here. Trump's immigration bans on Muslim nations, among other nations he's decided don't belong here, is immoral and racist.

I am sorry you can't return home but I hope you are able to make a happy, free life wherever you choose.

Like  24 Reply  Link  Report 



**Lizard Person** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

I respect Muslim women and their religious attire.

But let's face it, most hijabs look like hell.

Perhaps if I lived in a country where most women wear hijabs I would become accustomed.

But in western countries women style their hairs and hijabs look goofy.

Hijabs are not scarves and are absolutely not fashionable.



Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**philman0516** 1 day ago

What exactly is the purpose of this post except to show what an a-hole you are?

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 




**Lizard Person** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

The purpose is I understand how this young woman felt about having to wear a hijab in a western environment.

You are free to disagree.

Perhaps you think hijabs are stylish.

She and I don't.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 1 day ago

A woman's life is in danger, and your mind goes to whether or not her attire is pleasing.

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**Lizard Person** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Her life was in danger because she did not want to wear a hijab, an attire she thought was unpleasant and out of place in a western set-up.

That is very troubling indeed.

And I happen to agree with her. Hijabs are very often not elegant and do look out of place among western women.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report **Verba gratis** 23 hours ago

I'm used to them, because I teach high school and we have many children from Yemen and other Islamic countries. Our students who wear hijab sport lots of bright colors and pretty floral patterns, silk scarves, and other fabrics that look far more light and comfortable than the black ones in the photo above.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report **kate52** 1 day ago

Nuns' veils are "absolutely not fashionable" too. Do you consider them "goofy" as well? Or are you, yourself, "accustomed" – so it's suddenly okay?

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report **Gail 784** 1 day ago

The majority of sisters' Orders did away with veils decades ago. For obvious reasons.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report **M Cole** 1 day ago

"Nuns' veils are "absolutely not fashionable" too. Do you consider them "goofy" as well?"

Yes

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report **Lizard Person** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

I am old enough and I was raised by nuns who wore a very restrictive veil and uniform.

And I was happy when their order finally shedded their veils and their

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
severe uniforms.

Like Reply Link Report



**Donald Skipper** 1 day ago

"shedded"?

I was going to ignore "style their hairs" in your first post, but now I have to ask - where did you learn English?

Like Reply Link Report



**Lizard Person** 1 day ago

From nuns.

Like Reply Link Report



**The Villages** 1 day ago

The UN should meet immediately and condemn Israel!!!

Like Reply Link Report



**kate52** 1 day ago

Off topic, inappropriate, and irrelevant.

Like 4 Reply Link Report



**The Villages** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Actually Kate it is the world is constantly attacking Israel for it's treatment of Muslims even though Muslim women in Israel can go to school, dress as they choose, drive, vote and work etc

Like Reply Link Report



**Olddear** 1 day ago

Come off it, even Israeli Jewish women cannot do what they want. Try praying at the Wailing Wall, or sitting to a male orthodox Jew on a bus, or even on an El Al airline. Israel is not a secular state, so how can any women feel comfortable there. All religions discriminate against and diminish women.

By the way, 'it's' is an abbreviation of It is. If you mean 'belonging to' the correct term is its. Sloppy grammar to match your sloppy post.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Donald Skipper** 1 day ago

"Sloppy grammar to match your sloppy post."

"sitting to a male orthodox Jew on a bus"

But please, let's focus on grammar. It's far more urgent to address that than racist and sexist abuse.

[but see above for more of the same]

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Darwin2626** 1 day ago

Ught Ooooo, feckless troll again...

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Registered Indy** 1 day ago

We should let her in, because it sounds like she's already an American woman.

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**Ultimateliberal** 1 day ago

Sad, that women in so many countries cannot enjoy being open and genuine.....

When does Islam enter the 21st Century? Catholic nuns shed the veil 60 years ago.....

Like  10 Reply  Link  Report 



**Radical Pragmatist** 1 day ago

Catholic nuns shed the veil 60 years ago

Catholic nuns wore and wear habits as a sign of piety and commitment to God. The Hijab is worn under the assumption that men are sexual animals who must be shielded from temptation.

Like  15 Reply  Link  Report 



**nevillemathew2014** 1 day ago

Finally a sensible comment, so true.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Gail 784** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Excuse me, but nuns were cloaked in some absolutely ridiculous looking & physically impractical attire that covered their shorn heads & their necks (wimples) and their entire bodies were layered in voluminous robes. (The variations on the “flying nun hat & wimple”— oh please.) This wasn’t done to glorify God. This was done so that others would not perceive them to be female human beings. That would be too dangerous. The bizarre clothing/appearance requirements were a way of “avoiding temptation” for the nuns & those that interacted with them.

It’s no accident that so many nuns wore “habits” that looked like hijabs & burkas.

At my Catholic school, the nuns expanded their veils (attached to their headpiece contraption) to cover themselves just like a burka to attend certain religious rituals.

So, I find the rationale for the burka, hijab, nun’s habits to be pretty much the same.

At least the majority of Catholic women's religious orders stopped requiring the dehumanizing and misogynistic attire decades ago.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**cosmiccanine** 1 day ago

Nuns didn't have shorn heads!!!

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**gloria andolina** 1 day ago

Why would you ever want to go back to anything that stupid?

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 1 day ago

If you'd read the article, you would have seen these words: "I wanted to go home, but by now it was too dangerous." Ms. Bayat undoubtedly has family and friends in Iran whom she will miss terribly. Compassion is appropriate here.

Like  16 Reply  Link  Report 



**gloria andolina** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

my compassion isn't going to get her home. I hope she has a good life in the great world ...and that she has friends outside iraq  
It sounds like bad Alice In Wonderland

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Jeffrey A LaLone** 1 day ago

Considering she never mentioned Iraq, it's fair to assume all of her friends are elsewhere.

For this to be a bad Alice in Wonderland, there would first have to be a

good one. I read the book for my nearly two year old (at the time) son a year or so back. The whole is less than the sum of its parts.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 1 day ago

The author never mentioned Iraq, because she grew up in Iran. That's where most of her friends and family would be – Iran. (Not Iraq.)

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**Home By Another Way** 1 day ago

Anything less than a burka means you are not fully committed.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 1 day ago

Why do you feel the need to be disrespectful?

"The pain was enormous, the tears endless."

"I don't know what the future holds."

"We are also humans, you know."

Like  7 Reply  Link  Report 



**Bob S.** 19 hours ago

That was dry humor, gently ridiculing the tradition of enforcing misogynistic rules under the guise of religion. You should probably try to learn to recognize it so you can avoid it. It ain't your thing, as you are not mine.

Off to the 'Ignore User' bin you go.

\*poof\*

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 14 hours ago (Edited)

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post (Since Bob S. has not "Ignore User" for my name, he won't be able to see or respond to this comment.)

The author has posted an eloquent plea for help. She is going through a period of tremendous loss. Imagine her reading these comments, and seeing this.

Attempts at "dry humor" can fall horribly flat, when they instead come off as mockery.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Flowman165** 1 day ago

This begs the question of why any woman is a Muslim. Their degenerate religion teaches that women are lower than dogs, which Muslims also hate. They have no souls, there is no afterlife for them, they must submit to whatever cruelty their perverted husbands inflict on them, they must wear tent-like clothes in stifling heat or they will be beaten by depraved men. They should flee to anyplace that isn't Muslim, and denounce their abusers. Some have.

Like  17 Reply  Link  Report 



**MBTALB** 1 day ago

Unfortunately, Iranian women can't flee to the U.S. because of the Trump travel ban that applies to Iran.

Like  10 Reply  Link  Report 



**Radical Pragmatist** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

So all Iranian women? Then by implication all Saudi Arabian women? And Nigerian women? And Afghani women? And Pakistani women? And (fill in the blank) Islamic State women?

Tell me when to stop...

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 





**Lizard Person** 1 day ago

Saudi women are free to come in the United States.

Trump and his family have borrowed large loans from the Saudi Royals.

Like 13 Reply Link Report



**kate52** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Muslim refugees are warmly welcomed in the community where I live. Our local police force, in particular, has reached out to help them learn our laws, and feel safe and protected.

My own (limited) experience with women of the Muslim faith makes me want to be around them. There is a purity which radiates from them – a certain modesty and humility which is lovely to behold.

As an American, I cannot say I know much about the teachings of Mohammad or the Koran – hardly anything, in fact. So unfortunately, I cannot effectively counter what you've written here, Flowman165, except to say that I find your "tone" here highly offensive and arrogant.

Like 8 Reply Link Report



**blueridge12101** 17 hours ago

"I cannot say I know much about the teachings of Mohammad or the Koran – hardly anything, in fact."

If you'd like to know here's a book suggestion: "Wholly Different" by Nonie Darwish. You should start reading if you'd like to "effectively" comment.

Like Reply Link Report



**kate52** 14 hours ago

One can always read and interpret the Koran themselves, if one chooses. Or speak with a believer.

Subtitle of the book you suggested: "Why I Chose Biblical Values over

Islamic Values."

Since I greatly prefer to make up my own mind on topics, and avoid bias whenever possible, I believe I will "effectively" pass on your recommendation.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 14 hours ago

I thought you would. That's too bad. You could have learned something from an ex-Muslim who isn't biased but speaks truthfully about her former religion. Stay "effectively" ignorant then.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 14 hours ago

Choosing not to read a particular book has earned me an accusation (from you) of being "ignorant." Are the author's arguments as compelling as your own? /s

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 13 hours ago *(Edited)*

You're 100% ignorant about Islam. The author's book, or any book, has nothing to do with informing you you're ignorant. However, if you read it, and others, you wouldn't be. What does Quran 5:51 say since you know so much? I'm interested in your reply, Infidel.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**M Cole** 1 day ago

Why are there any lower caste Hindus who consider themselves Hindu? Why were there ANY blacks who converted to LDS when the Mormons decided to admit them, but maintained a doctrine that they were inferior for ancestral sins.

You are incorrect that Muslims believe that women have no souls and no

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
You are incorrect that muslims believe that women have no souls and no afterlife. I don't know where you read that, but the Koran specifically says the opposite. The Koran does, however, make clear that woman are an inferior type of being.

Like 4 Reply Link Report

**blueridge12101** 17 hours ago

"but the Koran specifically says the opposite"

Really? Where?

"The Koran does make clear that women are an inferior type of being"

Really? Where?

Like 1 Reply Link Report

**billzorn** 17 hours ago

souls have no gender in islam, unlike earthly bodies. both male and females on earth, if 'righteous', get a ticket.

the masculine form is used to refer to men and women in arabic. here's where

89:28-29

89:30-31

Like 1 Reply Link Report

**blueridge12101** 16 hours ago

"Righteous" meaning a Muslim ticket to Paradise. But not for Infidels.

Like 1 Reply Link Report

**OffTheFoxDeepEnd** 1 day ago

You really do not understand Islam, do you. You cherrypick isolated incidents


to tarnish an entire cultural/social ideology.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 17 hours ago

And what do you understand about Islam? What does the Quran say about "al hejira" for instance? And cite the verses.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**billzorn** 17 hours ago

it says 'stone insolent children', 'kill eaters of shellfish', 'lie to god and you drop dead' 'tease god, drop dead'

i think that's the quran, in leviticus and acts. one of those old books, anyway. i think it's the one that suggests we have voluntary control over our beliefs, and that what you believe gets you into a 'heaven'! (hard to imagine, i know. but ask one of them to believe the sky is the ground, see if they fall down or fly)

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 16 hours ago

The "hegira" (journey) is jihad by emigration, Q 8:72, 4:89, 4:100.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**BLACKCAT66** 19 hours ago


Why is anyone religious period?

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**billzorn** 17 hours ago

family and regional culture. this also decides which religion

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**billzorn** 17 hours ago

i guess you're not christian; they're not supposed to lie.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1460733?seq=1>

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**JackKlompus** 1 day ago

And here we're trying to turn our country into a Christian version of exactly that.

Like 16 Reply Link Report



**Radical Pragmatist** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

And here we're trying to turn our country into a Christian version of exactly that.

I think the crowd that is trying to get men wearing dresses into ladies locker rooms is winning...

Like 4 Reply Link Report



**JackKlompus** 1 day ago

I think the crowd that is trying to let priests have their way with little boys is winning...

Like 13 Reply Link Report



**Radical Pragmatist** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

If institutional bankruptcy and prison for the miscreants is winning, then I agree...

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**JackKlompus** 1 day ago

I'll believe that when El Pedante goes to prison

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report **BLACKCAT66** 19 hours ago

So you see a lot of trans gendered people in locker rooms do you? What do they do exactly other than change their clothes that has your snowflake panties in a bunch? Seriously, the modern world must be a fear inducing hell scape to people that over react like you. I'm a woman. Changed in a lot of locker rooms. Most of them have privacy stalls and even the ones that don't it really doesn't matter because we don't sit around trying to check each other's bits out. I could have changed next to a trans gendered person and would never know. What exactly is it that YOU do in locker rooms?

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report **tRumpisht** 1 day ago

Exactly!

Like  Reply  Link  Report **Registered Indy** 1 day ago

Oh yeah, we're always making women hide under heavy clothing here. You go with that.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report **Radical Pragmatist** 1 day ago

Oh yeah, we're always making women hide under heavy clothing here.

Women shielding themselves from the male perverts in dresses given access to their locker rooms.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**So Tired Of Winning** 1 day ago

What a horrible place a once beautiful country has become....

Like 4 Reply Link Report



**Jeffrey A LaLone** 1 day ago

Referring to Iran? Or the US, where I'm assuming most of the heartless commenters on this article call home?

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**cmckeonjr** 1 day ago

The things that people obsess on. They should be more focused on things that really matter.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**YearOfTheKock** 1 day ago

If you have a y-chromosome, you can shut the hell up on this one.

Like 8 Reply Link Report



**cmckeonjr** 17 hours ago *(Edited)*

Apparently reader **YearOfTheKock** misread the thrust of my comment that was aimed not at Bayat, whose misgivings about returning to Iran doubtless stem from something more than paranoia, but instead at those who would obsess on how people dress, how they wear hair, pieces of cloth called flags, and so on.

What really matters are such as health and safety.

Like Reply Link Report



**YearOfTheKock** 5 hours ago

A misogynist says what?

Like Reply Link Report



**JonnieBkk** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

We Americans respect and support your Persian and Muslim religious and cultural heritage. Therefore, @POTUS and the American people feel it is best if you return and enjoy the great country of Iran, and not have to stay in the incorrigibly racist, sexist, and homophobic country that is America. Oh wait...

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Save Grace** 1 day ago

forced religious observance is no religious observance at all, just a demonstration of power and control

Like 6 Reply Link Report



**JaneQtoYou** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

I read the inference as meaning the US should open our hearts and doors to the citizens of a country who are we are in conflict with. A country whose leaders and citizens refer to us as the "Great Satan".

The oppressive militant religious and cultural fanaticism that the writer fled from, is a threat to the writer and all freedom loving people everywhere and most especially to a liberal society.

The random lottery system that produces applicants from almost every corner of the earth, should instead be a system more carefully thought out. It's nice to be nice and if security or resources or cultural compatibility were not realistic considerations, we could take all comers.

But the world has changed in the recent decades, the threats our enemies pose are no longer confined to the threat of a world war or matters of state, but all manner of portable and lethal attacks that can now, with current technology, be executed by one or a handful of disgruntled fanatics that can kill and terrorize mass populations of our citizens.

The more effective altruism we can offer the oppressed citizens of other



countries is to lead by example, use our diplomatic relationships to advance human rights, and to choose a president that respects these values.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**M Cole** 1 day ago

For what it is worth I will point out that Iran, for all their belligerence, is not our main enemy, not even close. The terrorist acts against us have been perpetrated by Sunni, not Shia, fanatics. Sunnis as in Prince Bone Saw who our president sucks up to. The situation in Iraq and Syria is rather ironic. If we attack Iranian backed Shia militias we are helping Isis. If we attack Isis we are de facto allies of Iran's factions. If somebody can see more coherence in our Middle East policy than I do, please explain it to me.

Like  9 Reply  Link  Report 



**Radical Pragmatist** 1 day ago

Sunnis as in Prince Bone Saw who our president sucks up to.

[https://media1.s-nbcnews.com/j/newscms/2016\\_18/1520561/160502-obama-saudi\\_900f7070d571affd12c86c22c9e461e9.fit-760w.jpg](https://media1.s-nbcnews.com/j/newscms/2016_18/1520561/160502-obama-saudi_900f7070d571affd12c86c22c9e461e9.fit-760w.jpg)

Obama administration arms sales offers to Saudi top \$115 billion

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-saudi-security-idUSKCN11D2JQ>

Obama's War of Choice: Supporting the Saudi-led Air War in Yemen

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/obamas-war-choice-supporting-saudi-led-air-war-yemen>

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**cantbelieveit** 1 day ago

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
I can explain it to you. we have absolutely no idea what we are doing in the middle east, apparently we never have and quite probably we never will. what is going on there is beyond our comprehension and as such we should take a much lower profile until our understanding comes up to speed. which is quite probably never.

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 



**CanaTex** 1 day ago

Wow, such expertise on the DV program. You must have studied it for years...

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Gail 784** 1 day ago

Trump's Muslim Ban only applies to Muslim countries that don't give him money.

We take any & all Saudis here. And they hijacked our planes on 9/11.

And Saudi Prince BoneSaw murdered & dismembered a WaPo contributor living in the US.

We even train Saudis at our navy bases. Where they commit murderous acts of terror & collect child porn.

And you want to bar a woman whose only "crime" was loosening her hijab?  
And send her to be brutalized or killed?

Wow. Just wow. What are we becoming?

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**AJGS** 1 day ago

Dear Ms. Bayat,

Thank you for writing this. I hope people will see that when we in the west promote and celebrate the hijab we are siding with the oppressors and making

it even more difficult for Muslim women and girls to be free.

Like  11 Reply  Link  Report 



**cantbelieveit** 1 day ago

i'm sorry, I must have been absent on "Celebrate the Hijab" day. is that a thing?

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**AJGS** 1 day ago

Oh yes, I'm afraid you missed World Hijab Day it was Feb. 1. Not to worry, it's an annual celebration.

<https://worldhijabday.com>

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

I wouldn't say that Westerners "promote and celebrate the hijab" as much as we promote and celebrate **Freedom of Religion** – including Islam.

If a Christian woman can wear a crucifix, and a Jewish man can wear a skullcap, and a Sikh man can wear a turban, then a devout Muslim woman should be able to wear a hijab – *if she chooses*. **Or not!**

We do **not** promote oppression. Instead, we promote **voluntary** religious expression, or absence thereof. It's all about CHOICE.

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 



**AJGS** 1 day ago

Kate52, let's not forget that we should also celebrate Freedom From Religion.

And I concur, women should be free to dress as they want. They should be free to choose to be oppressed and subservient to men and dress accordingly if that's what they desire. But when the hijab is mandatory, as it is in Iran, it promotes misogyny, purity culture and the sexual objectification of women. For millions of women, the hijab is not a choice but rather a symbol of oppression.

Like  13 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

I am 100% aware that **forced** wearing of a hijab or burka can be incredibly oppressive. So is the necessity of never venturing into public without a male relative to escort you. So is the denial of an education for young girls. And the list goes on...

Here's what you keep missing: Some women feel more **comfortable** in these items of clothing, because they've grown accustomed to them, and because they feel protected and modest while wearing them. Sometimes it's a desire to stand up for their faith (in Western cultures) – to be counted, so to speak.

How about we STOP telling women what they can, and cannot, wear? Simple, isn't it?

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 



**AJGS** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Kate52, in my comment above I wrote: "women should be free to dress as they (actually I wrote "the" but it was a typo) want.

My position: I support a woman's right to wear the hijab. I'm opposed to discrimination against women who wear the hijab. I stand in solidarity with the women, like Ms. Bayat, who find the hijab oppressive and dehumanizing and are forced to wear it. I admire the women that live in families and societies that pressure and even force women to wear the hijab yet they bravely refuse to wear it because they; not me, not western traditions and culture; but they, on their

own volition, find the hijab objectionable.

How about we stand in solidarity with the courageous woman who refuse to wear the hijab?

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Returning to my original post on this topic:

"then a devout Muslim woman should be able to wear a hijab –  
*if she chooses. Or not!*"

"religious expression, **or absence thereof.**"

Looks like you missed the part where I expressed my solidarity with whatever the woman chooses. (Her call; not mine.)

The women who live in oppressive regimes and REFUSE to wear it? Brave.

The women who live here in the States and DO wear it? Also brave.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Brunetto Latini** 1 day ago

Poor dear. Never been religious? Unfamiliar with brainwashing? There's no choice when some man tells you God will punish you if you aren't submissive or straight or whatever. The religious oppressed think they're free, but they're not.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 1 day ago

If this comment was directed at me, then why – exactly – are you calling me "poor dear? What did I state that would make you **assume** that I'm religious, or an atheist, or unfamiliar with brainwashing?

Freedom of religion is enshrined in the First Amendment. *Go back and re-read what I wrote!* I was laying out a political lesson, in terms of America's constitutionally-protected rights. Got it now?

Like 👍1 Reply ↩ Link 🔗 Report 🚩



**Linda Hartman** 1 day ago

If women choose to wear the hijab, more power to them. I certainly don't know why they choose to in countries where they will be arrested or worse. But wear a hijab only when men have to as well. As to returning to Iran, if you are afraid, seek asylum in Canada instead.

Like 👍3 Reply ↩ Link 🔗 Report 🚩



**Philip Cohen** 1 day ago

Indeed, both males and females are supposed to dress modestly under Islam; how often do you see an islamic male so dressed? Rarely! Only once recently have I seen an Islamic male dressed so; he was wearing a little white cap and a shoulder to toe white "sheet"; his wife, presumably, was following along about six feet behind him covered head to toe in a black sheet with only slits for her eyes ...

Like 👍4 Reply ↩ Link 🔗 Report 🚩



**ReaderAlways1900** 1 day ago

Revolt against the Mullahs. Overthrow the Iranian government and religious order. Spit on the Koran and Mohammad's grave.

Like 👍3 Reply ↩ Link 🔗 Report 🚩



**kate52** 1 day ago

Reported to the WaPo administrators. This comment is **highly offensive** and inflammatory.

Apologies to anyone of the Muslim faith. This is NOT who we are.

Like 👍3 Reply ↩ Link 🔗 Report 🚩



**Philip Cohen** 18 hours ago

That's not who *you* are? Then why do the "religious" in this country keep trying to tell—indeed, legislate—how everybody else should live their lives?

“Vote Blue No Matter Who” in November—consign Trump’s sycophantic GOP enablers and his (acting) Kakistocracy to the dustbin of history and Trump to the new “Presidential Wing” at Leavenworth Club Fed.

<http://bit.ly/2TWdwJ5>

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**kate52** 14 hours ago

The First Amendment to the Constitution has guaranteed Americans the right to Freedom of Religion. Yes, some have abused this right, by attempting to create legislation which effectively "cancels out" the rights of OTHERS to worship as they please.

I'm **not** talking about those who are attempting to control others.

I **am** talking about the way we need to treat each other with respect. "Spitting" on another person, or their sacred articles of faith, **IS NOT WHO WE ARE.**

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**blueridge12101** 13 hours ago

kate, as you said about yourself: "I cannot say I know much about the teachings of Mohammad or the Koran – hardly anything, in fact."

Learn about the teachings first before guaranteeing rights to the practitioners.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**kate52** 12 hours ago *(Edited)*

Actually, that's NOT how our Bill of Rights works. Freedom of Religion. Period. (There is no test to pass beforehand.)

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 12 hours ago

Like I said, learn about a belief system before guaranteeing rights to the practitioners. That's common sense. But I see you refuse to learn. Figures. When you can converse about Islam let me know. Because you don't have the foggiest idea what you're talking about. Do you have higher education? It's called critical thinking, not blind acceptance.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 10 hours ago

*Do you have higher education?*

Doctorate degree, with highest honors. I'm a physician. So is my husband. And yes, we've treated patients of many different faiths, including Islam.

The Muslims we've met thus far have been lovely. (Our hearts go out to them, knowing how they face scorn from people like you.)

"Love thy neighbor as thyself." Maybe try it someone?

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 9 hours ago *(Edited)*

Fine, but you know nothing about Islam. Your quote is from Christianity. Islam doesn't have it. Writing about Islam and stating facts isn't "scorn." However, you are scorned in the Quran as an Infidel. You try it sometime. You're not my neighbor. Glad of it, people like you.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Dan and Jean** 1 day ago

When I worked in Morocco, I had several women staffers, two of whom wore hijabs while the rest did not. One in particular liked to color-coordinate her hijabs with the rest of her outfits. She was also quite good friends with another woman who was an open atheist.

There is nothing wrong with a hijab - IF the person wearing it has chosen to do so. That is what Iran has taken away from all Iranian women: choice.

Like 10 Reply Link Report

**Philip Cohen** 1 day ago

No organised religion offers "choice"; they are all dictatorial by nature ...

Like 5 Reply Link Report

**Dan and Jean** 13 hours ago

Read what I wrote again. In Morocco - a country that is 99% Muslim - women have the choice. In the cities, most women do not wear a hijab. In the countryside, more do, but that has as much to do with rural conservatism as with religion.

Yes, in many places religion - Christian, Jewish, Hindu, as well as Muslim - can be coercive. But your blanket statement is not factual.

Like Reply Link Report

**Philip Cohen** 11 hours ago

No offense intended, but, a belief in other than "reason" reminds me of the Jesuit claim: "Give me the child for the first seven years and I will give you the man." We would today better call that "indoctrination"; and all cultures "educate" in their own way, with their own nonsenses. The question then is, in the "Age of Reason", with all that we know about everything today, if you had not been so indoctrinated with religion as a child, would you, as an adult, independently choose to believe such

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
mythical tales about a "sky daddy"? Well, I was never "hard-wired" with such myth as a child and my ongoing education and powers of reasoning tell me that all such myths are nonsense—a useless "appendix" from a time, long ago, when we all were ignorant—not now simply because some remain ignorant because they elect still to so be.

If ever there has been a curse on mankind it is organized religion. Funny, how the rest of the animal world manages to get along without this nonsense. Regardless, what other reason can anyone "of faith" have for giving a cretin like Trump their vote, other than ignorance?

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**BullMoose** 1 day ago

Nothing to worry about. According to most liberals, Islam is truly the religion of peace love and tolerance and Sharia law should be welcomed in the USA under the auspices of diversity which we are told is the source of all strength and goodness.

Hard to believe that the WP is perpetrating stories such as this one. Our mandatory diversity training teaches us that all religions, all cultures are equal and should be embraced. The WP teaches us that the hijab is not about oppressing women, it is a voluntary expression of religious choice (pay no attention to those female circumcisions or Imam endorsed "pleasure marriages").

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**tryingtobereal** 1 day ago

Careful your hijab is a little too tight, its cutting off the blood flow to your brain.

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 



**M Cole** 1 day ago

Dude. Studies have shown that cognitive function is largely recoverable if you stop watching Fox news or, as I call it, fear porn for the feeble minded.

Like  9 Reply  Link  Report 



**cantbelieveit** 1 day ago

The WaPo "teaches" you nothing. It presents fairly well vetted articles from which you as a theoretically intelligent person can glean information, thus to make your own informed opinion. It is an informative article and I can't think of any others that support any of your thoughts. Maybe without quoting fox news you could bring us up to speed? and unlike fox, when they get it wrong they do actually apologize. so yeah, I have NEVER read about female circumcsions here. I'm sure if it wasn't for the diligent reporting at fox we would never know about these things.

Like 4 Reply Link Report



**Beaune** 1 day ago

Think she might want asylum?

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**AJGS** 1 day ago

Think she might deserve asylum?

Like 4 Reply Link Report



**Beaune** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Don't know about deserving it, but the article is a barely veiled ploy.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**tryingtobereal** 1 day ago

Thank you Ms Bayat for writing and sharing of your experience, I find the comments of people from other cultures to be deeply enriching, particularly if thoughtful and observant. Even though this is currently not our best face to the world, please consider a move to America! You would enrich our country, though one would never know it judging by the words of our current administration. This too shall pass, then perhaps we can return to a more welcoming attitude.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**stevera57** 1 day ago

As an Iranian I should confirm more than 99.9 percent of these folks are lying about been arrested if they go back home. They are doing this simply because they are looking for easy option to get asylum or citizenship in Canada, America or Europe. To be honest I don't blame them because American sanctions are hurting normal Iranian citizen so most folks are moving out of the country. This girl or others like her are economic immigrants. I'm really sorry but the truth should be told and this is the truth.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Timbered** 1 day ago

And as an Iranian, are you speaking on behalf of all women in your country?

Like  10 Reply  Link  Report 



**kate52** 1 day ago

I felt the same skepticism when I read "Steve's" comment. Two years ago, FRONTLINE produced a series called "Our Man in Tehran," which gave a deeper insight into what the Iranian women face, in terms of harsh restrictions on the way they dress. From the series' description:

*Thomas Erdbrink...chief correspondent and Tehran bureau chief for The New York Times...is one of the last Western journalists living in the country. Over the course of four years beginning in 2014, he was able to get permission to travel with a crew from Dutch television around the country, meeting people and hearing stories about their lives and hopes and fears, in one of the most isolated countries in the world.*

*Along the way, the series introduces a range of characters who try to live their daily lives in a country ruled by Koranic guidelines. Somayeh, his assistant at The New York Times, comes from a deeply conservative family in the countryside, but now, as a newly divorced single woman in Tehran, encounters prejudice and sexism.*

It's been awhile since we watched this series, but I still remember how his assistant was stopped and harassed by the police when the wind caught her clothing. **The wind!** Thus, I have every reason to believe that this author is 100% telling the truth.

Like  12 Reply  Link  Report 



**Masriki** 1 day ago

Hmmm. 99.9 percent are lying. Interesting to know. Not 99.8 percent? Not 99.964 percent? Gotta wonder where dude gets his statistics. How could anyone possibly determine such statistics? Is it far more likely that these statistics came directly out of his butt? I'd say there's about a 99.952 percent probability.

Like  13 Reply  Link  Report 



**Shiveh** 1 day ago

She deserves to live as she likes. If it is not possible for her to do so in Iran, then any way she can leave the country is legit. In her case specifically, there was enough propaganda even before this Op-Ed that could jeopardise her safety. With this added document, her asylum case - if she decides to apply - is a slam dunk. Good for her.

Like  9 Reply  Link  Report 



**cantbelieveit** 1 day ago

I would beg to differ. with Steven Miller in charge there is no such thing as a slam dunk asylum case. her life could hang in the balance and as best I can tell we no longer, as a country, give a rat's patoot. I wish her well but the US is no longer a viable option for someone in this absurd position. maybe if she was from Norway...

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**tryingtobereal** 1 day ago

It seems to me strange that you would characterize her comment as "lying"

and not say....misinformed or mistaken? Lying means a purposeful untruth meant to deceive when it seems pretty clear she was fearful because she was texted/informed that the authorities were upset. Knowing the autocratic nature of the regime her fears do not seem out of place, at least to me. If this all revolves around the economic insecurity due to US sanctions of Iran, what do you think is the best way forward for Ms Bayat and the Iranian people? If you say elect a Democrat, you receive bonus points.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 17 hours ago

"Lying means a purposeful untruth meant to deceive"

Apparently you've never heard of Islamic deception called "al taqiyya" (concealment). Islam is the only religion with a doctrine of deception. It's used to advance Islam by deceiving the Infidels (non-Muslims). Muhammad said: "War is deceit" (hadiths). You really should learn about Islam.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**tryingtobereal** 13 hours ago

I take your point, but how are we to determine whether or not Ms. Bayat was "lying"? I take her at her word, the words she wrote. Those words did not appear deceitful, only struggling to work within a system which she finds difficult. I guess I am left with some choices: 1) she is who she says she is and deserves respect and a fair minded attitude from one human being to another 2) she is simply deceiving every reader because she is a person who views the Muslim/Christianity tension as a war condition which requires viewing us as enemies. The problem I see in the second view means I, and everyone else, has to view Islam is a combatant situation, an enemy to the Christian faith. I'd rather look for those who feel that way instead of viewing everyone who practices Islam as an enemy. I know some practicing Muslim's who are lovely people.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 12 hours ago

I'm glad you got the point, which has nothing to do with some Muslims being lovely people. There is still the doctrine of deception in Islam. Quran 3:28, Hadiths in which Muhammad uses deception to kill his critics, and Sharia (Islamic law). Here's the Sharia:

"When it is possible to achieve an aim by lying but not by telling the truth, it is permissible to lie, and lying is obligatory if the goal is obligatory" (such as Jihad). —Sunni Sharia manual, r8.2. Used by all sects. Deception is universal in Islam.

To answer your "How do we determine she's lying" you have to know about Islam for that.

Islam regards Judeo-Christianity as the enemy. Quran identifies Jews and Christians as the "enemies of Allah" (2:98). Jews are Islam's "worst enemy" (5:82). Christians are "unclean polytheists" (9:28).

And much more. If you don't know the Quran you don't know Islam. Thanks for your reply.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**tryingtobereal** 11 hours ago

My pleasure to respond to you.

Actually, if you don't mind I would like to double down on the idea that "some Muslims are lovely people" being exactly the point. I cannot in good conscience subscribe to the idea what is written in the Quran is followed exactly as written by everyone who calls themselves Muslim. I realize the argument goes, "they identify themselves as Muslim which means they follow the tenants of the faith" but real life tells us human beings do not act in exact correspondence with the dictates they hold dear. The Muslims I know do not practice deception as a daily act of faith and adherence to the Quran, so I know it is not a universal practice.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 10 hours ago

Well, a primary tenet of Islam is deception. In fact, it's major. In the Quran, Allah is the "best of deceivers" (3:54, 7:99, 8:30, 10:21), so deception is revered in Islam as an attribute of Allah's. Also of Muhammad (Hadiths). I provided you the Sharia. Since you're not familiar with Islam, how do you know whether or not they're practicing deception? You don't. Like I said, you must know Quran, Hadiths, Sharia to determine deception.

Of course they don't follow everything or all Muslims would be Jihadists. There are over 100 Jihad commands via Allah in the Koran, such as Q 9:111, which promises Paradise to Jihadis, and Muhammad says Jihad is the "greatest deed" in the Hadiths. Here's the Jihad Sharia:

"War with non-Muslims to establish the religion." (Sunni Sharia manual, o9.0)

Back to deception. Quran 3:28 permits Muslims to practice deception when Infidels (non-Muslims) are in authority. IOW smile externally/contempt internally. Deception is universal in Islam, practiced by all sects. Muhammad: "War is deceit" (hadith). Deception is Koranic, Hadithic, Sharia.

I hope that explains. There's much more. Thanks for your reply.

Like Reply Link Report



**BarVncent** 1 day ago

Her perception might be different if she's getting death threats.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**AJGS** 1 day ago

Stevera57, I think there is lying going on, but it's not from Ms. Bayat. In Iran, the punishment for being seen in public without the hijab includes arrest, a



Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
prison sentence, flogging or a fine.

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 



**billzorn** 17 hours ago

are the ones arrested lying about being arrested?

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Bob S.** 1 day ago

Interestingly enough, when I did a search for some information on chess arbiters, the first article I perused has a photo that I'm pretty sure is the writer!

Third photo:

"Everything You Need to Know About Chess Arbiters"

<https://www.chess-site.com/articles/chess-arbiters/>

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**Cathleen Sterling** 1 day ago

I have room for you. Please come.

Like  5 Reply  Link  Report 



**Thatshwutsup** 1 day ago

God bless. I hope you find refuge and peace in the West.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**SouthBySoDak** 1 day ago

For further insight into life for Persian women since the revolution, check out Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* (2003).

Like  Reply  Link  Report 

**kate52** 1 day ago

Ms. Bayat,

My husband and I wept when we heard the scattered cries, over our television sets, of "Allahu Akbar" (*God Is Great*) rising from the rooftops of Tehran, during the uprisings a decade ago. We wept for your beautiful people...and fervently hoped that freedom, and human rights (especially for women), would somehow prevail.

We wept again as we watched films (a couple years ago) of incredibly brave Iranian women taking off their hijabs – in protest – and waving them in the air for passing motorists...knowing full well that they could be arrested, mistreated, and imprisoned for doing so.

*I wish with all my heart that we could welcome you into our homeland!*

Hopefully, in another year (after our November elections), things will be back to normal...and that dream will come true.

In the meantime, our hearts are with you, dear sister. May Allah in His Mercy protect and guide you.

Warmly,

Kate from Idaho

Like 26 Reply Link Report

**blueridge12101** 17 hours ago

"Allahu akbar" is Muhammad's 7th century battle cry. Correctly translated it means "Allah is greater" (than any other god).

Like Reply Link Report

**trpark@hotmail.com** 1 day ago

I'm surprised the Post ran this.

Normally they like to celebrate the hijab in the spirit of inclusiveness, for

instance when Ibtihai Muhammed became the first Muslim-American woman to

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
instance when Irounaj Muhammadineh became the first Muslim-American woman to wear a hijab while competing for the U.S. in the Olympics. The Post, along with other liberal journalists, is keen on showing that the wearing of the hijab does not represent repression; that women voluntarily wear it as a proud symbol of their religious faith.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Bob S.** 1 day ago

\*chuckle\*

Your simplistic stereotyping of The Post, liberals, religion and the wearing of hijab does you proud in the eyes of your bigoted brethren & sistren. I raise an icy-cold American beer in recognition of your achievements.

Cheers!

Like  14 Reply  Link  Report 



**Robert E. Sorel** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

...

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Bud0** 1 day ago

Come to Canada. I guarantee you'll get a warm welcome here.

Like  15 Reply  Link  Report 



**ayn123** 1 day ago

and health care as well!

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**DCTroid** 9 hours ago

And if you can prove you're an Islamic terrorist like Omar Khadr, there's a good chance the federal government will pay you compensation!

Like Reply Link Report



**Hauptbenutzer** 1 day ago

Don't be envious of us here in America. We're dealing with our own right wing fundamentalist extremism.

Like 39 Reply Link Report



**Watching the river flow** 1 day ago

Maybe Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei needs to loosen his underwear. Seems to have been a little too tight for a long time.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Montgomery Fisterton** 1 day ago

You are in the UK. Claim asylum if you want.

No need to swipe at the US, we know we're going through some stuff.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**Hauptbenutzer** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

The "swipe" doesn't offend me at all.

Like 7 Reply Link Report



**Mary Sampson** 1 day ago

Me either! The 'travel ban' is ridiculous!

Like 4 Reply Link Report



**Avogri** 1 day ago



And the "swipe" is actually a modest acknowledgement of the simple truth—it's ridiculous to be offended by the truth.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**rridgeley** 1 day ago

Autocratic, theocratic countries will continue to lose their best and brightest, unless and until they allow their citizens to be free.

Like 9 Reply Link Report



**Mary Sampson** 1 day ago

Pretty soon that will include the US with the anti-science crowd in the White House

Like 7 Reply Link Report



**Avogri** 1 day ago

I've considered leaving since the orange filth was "elected."

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**jc grant** 1 day ago

Glad that you were able to leave Iran, Ms. Bayat. I wouldn't ever return until the scarf is an option and not a command.

I have seen many words of support from U.S. embassies around the world. That is touching, but also poignant, given that most Iranians can no longer enter the United States.

This is temporary. I'm sorry about the sorry current state of affairs in the United States.

Like 30 Reply Link Report



**Lizard Person** 1 day ago



I have met a few Iranian (Persian) women in my life.

They were educated, pleasant and religiously liberal.

I'll take them over the extremist conservative Saudis with ties to Al-Qaeda anytime.

Like 16 Reply Link Report



**Bud0** 1 day ago

Iran publishes as many books as the entire Arab world.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**SuZett Estell** 1 day ago

When western women, with all their freedoms, adopt the hijab, they give cover for this repression.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Western women wear what they want. I do not think the hijab is or will be that popular.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**jaguar943-one** 1 day ago

Your government says you are unwelcome for what you wear; mine says you are unwelcome because of where you were born. It is some small comfort that those governments are pledged to mutual destruction. I hope they both succeed in that.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**OCCali** 1 day ago

Please know that MANY Americans disagree with Trump's bans.

Like  13 Reply  Link  Report 



**djrich** 1 day ago

Sadly, America has allowed a demented man with a deformed personality to defile our White House. He is too stupid to be aware of all the contributions Iranian Americans make to our country. Stay in Britain until we are rid of him.

Like  48 Reply  Link  Report 



**FactBasedDiscussion** 1 day ago

Yeah ... right.

Time to woman up, stop whining and stand tall — move somewhere else and scorch the path back to the weird nutcases in Iran.

Stop excusing religious stupidity.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**David Brentford** 1 day ago

Your last sentence is idiotic. Did you even read the article?

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**FactBasedDiscussion** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Wow ... her article is waaaay soft on iran and islam...see how it works with pieces like this? It's subtle.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Kelleyaynn** 1 day ago

She isn't excusing anything.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**ThanksForTheFish** 1 day ago

**THANKS FOR THE FEEDBACK** 1 day ago

“We are also humans, you know.”

Did the post cut part of the story off, or does it end on a sentence that has no meaning to the rest of it?

Like 1 Reply Link Report

**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

It would make perfect sense when speaking to Trump and the Trumplings.

Like 3 Reply Link Report

**Redone1947** 1 day ago

You think Christians can't be oppressive? Remember Footlose? Christian kids were banned from dancing. I grew up in a devout household where the religion did not allow women to wear makeup or jewelry. We could not go to movies or sporting events. Watching television was frowned upon. There was so much we could not do but one thing for sure was we could worship 4 days a week. As soon as I got old enough to reject all of this, I did. I have rejected organized religion for decades and there is no likelihood I will ever go to church except for funerals and weddings. Be careful criticizing other religions. Remember, “he who is without sin should cast the first stone.”

Like 6 Reply Link Report

**lawrenceceghawkins** 1 day ago

"Footlose." A work of fiction, no?

Like 2 Reply Link Report

**Jono Cornraven** 1 day ago

Don't go back, you're better than that. Show them all, win the International Chess Championship.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**FactBasedDiscussion** 1 day ago

What?

Like Reply Link Report

**Ellen** 1 day ago

Salaams from America my courageous and noble-hearted sister. Bless your father for teaching you chess. May you be protected. May you one day be able to laugh at the men who made such a fuss about a piece of cloth which has nothing to do with true faith. May your faith be renewed.

Like 10 Reply Link Report

**Star98** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

"I am in Britain — a lovely country, where I have received much kindness and generosity from the chess community.". Bayat. Now given she seems happy in Britain, why that yearning to move to USA? Why should US become the abode to every reasonably well off woman even if from an oppressive society? There are so many far more deserving women and kids that could contribute to humanity if they get the opportunity to live and study at a decent US or any university and yet they don't get that little straw to walk on for better life.

Bayat should make home in Britain and not turn her back on her good hosts. Teach chess to British kids and become part of British society.

Like 5 Reply Link Report

**katsoj** 1 day ago

There is room in the US for her and for others. Why should we not benefit from having this woman live among us? There is nothing to fear and plenty of room. We are in much more danger from our home grown white supremacist terrorists.

Like 6 Reply Link Report

**FactBasedDiscussion** 1 day ago

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
Star ... I am missing your point.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Jebdra** 1 day ago

Star - I didn't read any yearning to go to the US. She said she had a lot of support from the US and contrasted that with the the ban on people from Iran. She says she wants to go home and says she doesn't know what the future holds. I think you're looking for something that isn't there.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**news-junkie** 1 day ago

May be she has relatives in the US? There are about a million Iranian-Americans in the US (30% in the Los Angeles area).

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Hanging Chad** 1 day ago


Nowhere in the Quran does it tell women to cover their heads. Even so, all Muslim fundamentalists do for reasons outside scripture. Conversely, the New Testament does tell Christian women to cover their heads during worship. But all Christian fundamentalists don't for reasons outside scripture. Weird, huh?

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Brunetto Latini** 1 day ago

You are incorrect. Some Christian fundamentalist women cover their heads, and Pentecostal women often wear ridiculously long hair because of that scripture.


Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Hanging Chad** 1 day ago

Nah. They're free to wear hats if they feel like it. Most don't.

Conversely men NEVER wear hats in church. That's across the board

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Of the Ville** 1 day ago

yarmi?

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**FactBasedDiscussion** 1 day ago

And, they are just as nutty as the islams.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 1 day ago

"Nowhere in the Quran does it tell women to cover their heads."

Q 24:31, 33:59.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Jono Cornraven** 1 day ago


Religion is entirely weird.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**David Brentford** 1 day ago *(Edited)*


The Quran does not operate like the Bible. There are also the Hadith and the sunnah. Those writings give guidance to muslims, albeit not as authoritative as the Quran and open to certain forms of debate. The Sunni sect of Islam are named for their adherence to the sunnah. Shiites do not apply that in the same way, believing that 'proper practice' includes 'guidance', by example, from the 12 imams (the historical successors of Muhammad - how successors to Muhammad are chosen was the key reason for the schism that created the two sects). The hijab, from memory, comes from an obscure reference to modesty in the Quran and from examples in the Hadith.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 1 day ago

Q 24:31, 33:59. Also, Quran and Hadiths have equal authority.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Toototabon** 1 day ago

Men can only get women to submit by threatening them with death. In every situation. Including religion.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Felix1928** 1 day ago

Now wait a minute....American feminists keep saying the Hijab is a wonderful symbol of a woman's freedom to dress how she pleases. It is her choice and she is not forced at all by men to express "adequate modesty." The Huffington Post does weekly stories on "inspiring women" competing in sports with hijab and burkas "by their own choice." Forced by male relatives and family? Of course not!

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 



**Nick Lappos** 1 day ago

If only you were telling the truth, your comment would make sense. Since you aren't, it doesn't.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Felix1928** 1 day ago

Nice rebuttal. You are like, so witty.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**velkroe** 1 day ago

You don't understand the difference between a choice and being forced to do something do you.

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**Felix1928** 1 day ago

Most who profess choice are more often forced. It is an easy concept really.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**katsoj** 1 day ago

Oh bull. Feminists want women to be free to make choices. Go find another hill to die on.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Felix1928** 1 day ago

Original feminists, yes, you are correct. I consider myself one. Third wave feminists on the other hand want to ignore any injustices against women if they do not include western white males (historically feminist's biggest males advocates) as the "perpetrators."

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**FactBasedDiscussion** 1 day ago

Felix,

You are waaaay full of it,

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Felix1928** 1 day ago

Full of truth, even truth that triggers.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**DDHunt** 1 day ago

I hope you find a home where you can be you and live free. It's very sad to know that is currently not possible in the USA.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**FactBasedDiscussion** 1 day ago

DD,

You have some screws loose if you believe that ... or, you are a Russian troll.

Like Reply Link Report



**Brunetto Latini** 1 day ago

No, no, it can't be true. I've watched the PSA before movies where Muslim women tried convincing me that it's not about keeping women down, where the funny Muslim woman demonstrates her "phone hijab", etc., where they're working at convincing me that thinking it's oppressive is bigotry.

Of course, I thought that PSA was trash. Thank you for speaking up. And sincerely, I wish you best of luck staying in the West.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**chowlett1** 1 day ago

Brunetto, it seems you don't have the first idea of the meaning of "choice". I suggest you look it up. Many people, men and women, will make different decisions when given the CHOICE.

Like Reply Link Report



**Brunetto Latini** 1 day ago

People choose to subject themselves to oppression all the time. I was evangelical for 40 years of my life. And guess what – I don't view it in a positive light.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report **!fnkyniedls** 1 day ago

these are disgusting traditions and to the religion/faith no favors for being accepted in western societies

Like  Reply  Link  Report **g3ntry** 1 day ago

No religious leaders should be treating their followers that badly. It's disgraceful and rather obviously wrong. "write an open letter supporting the hijab" is a rather sad requirement to make of anyone. There's no decency to these demands. Few prophets are as terrible as their followers, and that's clearly the case in Iranian religious leadership.

Like  Reply  Link  Report **pcoffey49** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Thanks for writing this. Your principles and bravery are inspiring. And I hope that you find a home that allows you to live your life as you would choose instead of being forced to follow ridiculous laws.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report **Ed Winters** 1 day ago

If you Google Bayat's image you'll find she's quite beautiful. There's a certain vibrancy about her, a determined resilience. My town would love to have her as we have a flourishing Iranian community established here. My hope is that in the near future she'll have the opportunity to join us here in the US if she chooses.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report **Cubby2** 1 day ago

This article about the hijab appears on WP the same day as one describing the Japanese corporate culture that requires women to wear high heels to work

even if the shoes damage their feet and cause pain. Women don't have equality in the workplace (or the chess game) as long as men are telling them what they have to wear.

Like  69 Reply  Link  Report 



**Amalek the Goatherder** 1 day ago

High heels improve the muscle tension in just the right place.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Of the Ville** 1 day ago

maybe we can get goats to wear them for you

Like  33 Reply  Link  Report 



**katsoj** 1 day ago

Then by all means, feel free to wear them. Just don't force others to do so.

Like  42 Reply  Link  Report 



**Fidele** 1 day ago


This is the terrible asymmetry that muslim women face. Those who freely choose to cover themselves up and couch this in liberating terms, especially in the west, do not face a fraction of the persecution of those who resist the strictures on how they dress. Incidentally, chess is forbidden in traditional islam because its founder-prophet compared playing chess to eating pig's flesh and blood.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Kind to others** 1 day ago

I believe it was the early followers of Muhammad who spread chess throughout the world.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 





**blueridge12101** 1 day ago

No. Originated in India, prior to Islam.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**Kind to others** 1 day ago

Yes, and spread from there by Muslims.

Like Reply Link Report



**blueridge12101** 1 day ago

From India chess spread to Persia and to Muslims after the Arab conquest of Persia.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**Amalek the Goatherder** 1 day ago

It is true that Chess was derived from an ancient Indian game. It is also true that Muslims brought it to Europe.

Like algebra, chess poisons the Christian mind and should be banned like yoga and taco trucks.

Like Reply Link Report



**M Cole** 1 day ago

Originated in India yes (possibly southern Persia, not known for sure. But spread by early followers of Muhammad is correct.

Like Reply Link Report



**blueridge12101** 1 day ago

India. Then spread to Persia. After the Arab conquest Muslims took it up.

Like Reply Link Report



**Richard88** 1 day ago

Let her in! Let her in! Let her in!

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Boulder\_Stever** 1 day ago

Good for her!

I hate the concept of Religious "police"

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**VoteEmOutNow** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

The oppressed females in Iran must fight back in sisterhood and consolidation. They cannot arrest all of them.

Peace and freedom for all Iranians, but especially women and girls. This was a depressing but needed article.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**roaxle** 1 day ago

Ms. Bayat, London is lovely. I recommend you stay there. The Brits are generally more civilized than most of us Americans and they will be happy to have you.

If you still wish to come, I suggest you make no decisions before Nov.4 of this year and then, should we rid ourselves of our poltroon, you should plan to arrive no earlier than Jan. 20, 2021.

Like 27 Reply Link Report



**DCTroid** 9 hours ago

Except I would avoid East London. My British friends and relatives who grew up in places like Hackney now note that it and the other eastern boroughs are dominated by Islamic fundamentalists of predominantly Pakistani origin who

are only too happy to physically threaten those who oppose their efforts impose their version of Sharia law—and the mandatory wearing of the hijab on women of Islamic origin. I guess what's "civilized" is all in the eyes of the beholder.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**RunAround** 1 day ago

I hope something works out for her. My grandparents visited Iran in about 1972, and until they passed away talked about how beautiful the relics and antiquities they saw were.

Maybe someday things will change.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**FactBasedDiscussion** 1 day ago

Not with religious nutcases and islam involved.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Curmudgeon10** 1 day ago


OK, but do we need more columns telling us the Iranian government is corrupt and run by cavemen?

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**VoteEmOutNow** 1 day ago

Yes. To lesson our angst at this admin. Support freedom abroad and at least we are speaking our for true American ideologies.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**OldLady1519** 1 day ago

Remember this article when someone asserts that wearing the hijab is a matter of personal religious choice, and not a political statement.

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Bayat wrote this article about her personal situation as it relates to the conditions in Iran. I am not seeing well how that relates to your comment.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**OldLady1519** 1 day ago

Conditions in Iran which affected her even as she worked in other countries.

Like Reply Link Report



**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

Yes, her personal situation with respect to conditions in Iran. You may be trying to say something, but it is not very clear.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**VoteEmOutNow** 1 day ago

It IS often a personal choice. But should never be compulsory to wear it or not to wear it.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**pcoffey49** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

So you're claiming that wearing a hijab is never a matter of personal religious choice for anybody because it wasn't a choice for the author of this article?

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Edward Allen** 1 day ago

I have seen many words of support from U.S. embassies around the world. That is touching, but also poignant, given that most Iranians can no longer enter the United States. Is it really against the law to be born Iranian? We

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
are also humans, you know.

No better critique of the refugee policy and the entry ban on people who need it most can be found. Shame on us, America. We scoff at Iran? Look at what we do to help.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**OldLady1519** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Really? Now, how do you know that the Iranians we admitted wouldn't be the very people imposing this requirement on her? The ones persecuting her?

By the way, she has a claim to asylum based on political opinion or maybe religion.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**VoteEmOutNow** 1 day ago

Because they come here for freedom.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**pcoffey49** 1 day ago

Really? You know that they would be "the very people imposing this requirement on her?"

Pray tell, how did you learn this?

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**tommad1** 16 hours ago

Where she learned how to spell.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Wiggles** 1 day ago

Almost certainly, every member of the democratic party stands with a woman's

- Almost certainly every member of the Democratic party stands with a woman's ability to choose her own destiny and what she wears. All of these chest thumping cultists who claim otherwise really have no idea what they're talking about in on practically any subject.

Like  8 Reply  Link  Report 



**RimaLIII** 1 day ago

Once the US rids itself of Trump, and Iran rids itself of the theocracy, the Iranian people will have no better friends than Americans.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**MaryGJ** 1 day ago

Why condition our friendship on Iran's government?

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**VoteEmOutNow** 1 day ago

Because it helps Iranians.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Charlie 1** 1 day ago

Despite incredibly brave and inspiring stories such as this, our left wing Democratic feminist class never support women in such a position. Indeed they support the hijab and other misogynistic garments along with the backward governments who mandate such laws. But if an American utters something they believe is sexist, they take to the streets in their thousands. Their misguided outrage is sad, but predictable!

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

I do not think the Democrats support the hijab and other misogynistic garments as you say. People are free to wear what they want. That does not mean we support or have any other opinion on what any person wears.

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**Wiggles** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

You're full of it. Republicans want to ban non-christian clothing and symbols, including outlawing the wearing of hijab by people who want to wear it. It's not a zero-sum game where just because Republicans are intolerant of other religions that means that Democrats want to force people into wearing religious garments they don't want to wear.

A couple years ago an insane cultist in Portland slashed the throat of some kind stranger who was trying to get him to back off harassing some muslim girls who were wearing hijab. Your side is the side of slashers, our side is the side of the kind people who don't want to harass those who choose to wear something that isn't from the same religion. It's not equivalent, at all.

Go back to the cult where you learned these things.

Like  6 Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 1 day ago

"they support the hijab and other misogynistic garments along with the backward governments who mandate such laws"

Charlie, female "covering" is mandated in the Quran: 24:31, 33:59. 24:60 allows elderly women to discard the "outer garments."

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Wiggles** 1 day ago

And Christianity says you shouldn't talk to a woman on her period. All these ancient cult documents are absurd at face value, yet people still believe them and make them a driving motivation in their lives. They are free to do that in a free country, but we should support those who choose not to rely on edicts written by uneducated men from a time when women were considered property.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**blueridge12101** 17 hours ago



Yeah, and that happens. Did you know this article concerns Islam? When you can talk about Islam let me know. Otherwise, can it with your dumb "what-about-ism," Wiggy.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**tommad1** 16 hours ago

Think that is Old Testament, not the New.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**HawthorneJuniper** 1 day ago

Not true. Most, if not all, feminists simply want women to be treated as grown up adults who can choose their own attire. All the Abrahamic religions were designed with patriarchal privilege in mind. Quite a few of what I assume are your fellow right wingers have no problem with theocracy as long as it's Christian. Most of them also hate the "feminists". It's a good tell.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**VoteEmOutNow** 1 day ago

Lies and propaganda.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**gotnoneck** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

As a democrat, I support the right of women to choose for themselves what they wear and how much of their hair or skin they show. Mandating a head and/or face covering is the nearly the epitome of objectifying women and justifying male control of their bodies and behaviors – female genital mutilation is the worst example.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 





**Charlie 1** 1 day ago

I'm glad there's some common sense and decency from Dems supporters - great to hear!

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**pcoffey49** 1 day ago

Despite incredibly brave and inspiring stories such as this, our fascist president and his supporters never support women in such positions. Indeed they support preventing Iranians from entering the US.

There, I fixed you post so it's no longer full of bs.

You're welcome.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Mackarel** 1 day ago

And you're getting these ideas from.....

Like Reply Link Report



**M Cole** 1 day ago

I, for one, would be honored to call you "sister" and "fellow American". Your average Trump voter, not so much.

Like 14 Reply Link Report



**JohnR-Montana** 1 day ago

Sorry for your distress. Iran has a terrible government, wonderful people.

Most Americans would welcome you, but our current government isn't so great either.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**MaryGJ** 1 day ago

America chose the Shah over a democratically elected government. We drove Iran's government to extremism.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**VoteEmOutNow** 1 day ago

This is true.

Like Reply Link Report



**blueridge12101** 17 hours ago *(Edited)*

That's absurd, Mary GJ. Islam doesn't have democracy. The Ayatollahs took over following Islam (Quran).

Like Reply Link Report



**Haggis Hunter** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Religious idiocy literally has no bounds. We will not be a truly civilized species until we shed the shackles of so-called faith and all-too-real-superstition and finally put an end to the centuries of human suffering committed in the name of some god or another.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**diduconsider** 1 day ago

and Yet our Democrat Party supports Iran in every way it can. It Never speaks out about what it does to any of its citizens. But it Blames Trump for all of the actions it does, including those to its own citizens.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

Where does the Democratic party support Iran in every way it can?

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post  
where does the Democratic party support Iran in every way it can?

Like  8 Reply  Link  Report 



**Wiggles** 1 day ago

It doesn't, he's just another cultist who isn't worth arguing with since he will never be persuaded from his cult indoctrinated imaginations

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**VoteEmOutNow** 1 day ago

Why do you people lie so much?

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**Zeusmeister** 1 day ago

Unless you can provide proof of this claim, you should keep your Cult45 pin firmly secured through your lips. In fact, the Dem party has done no such thing. Do they support using diplomacy? Yes. Do they wish we had not left the Iran Nuclear Agreement? Yes. You think that is "supporting" Iran?

Like  4 Reply  Link  Report 



**Barbara Pamp** 1 day ago

Spoken like a true Trumpist.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Mackarel** 1 day ago

Spoken like a true "Faux News" watcher.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**NotMyIdea** 1 day ago

Just stay in Britain.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**David Bible** 1 day ago

When a religion has rules that must be obeyed or specified beliefs that must be believed it has demonstrated that its spiritual path has nothing to do with a soul.

Like 9 Reply Link Report



**MidnightS** 1 day ago

This is what I hate about organized religion. Organized religion is written by MAN to control the masses. I believe in God, but I don't believe that God is so narrow-minded that if a person doesn't follow this book which was written by man, that the person will go to hell. Hogwash! I really feel for what muslim women must go through in regard to their religion.

Like 5 Reply Link Report



**Edward Allen** 1 day ago

Your comment fascinates me. It suggest a deep understand of the New Testament and the "Good News" that all are saved from sin and death. However, the suggestion that the spiritual path has nothing to do with a soul suggests, despite the subversive anti-establishment thought, that you still fundamentally think in terms of the New Testament or The Holy Koran.

Not that there is anything wrong with that. Thanks for making me think.

Like Reply Link Report



**Wiggles** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

No, not "all" are saved from sin and death. They're supposedly released from "original sin", the backwards impression that you can visit the "sin" of some ancestor (who didn't know what they were doing?) on their descendants but that doesn't do much for anyone who doesn't believe in their God considering disbelief is grounds for eternal dam nation. It's all absurd.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**gotnoneck** 1 day ago

It is not good, but not quite so bad, for a religion to do this. Those who disagree can leave the religion. But when a government imposes those religious requirements, so that if you live in that country you MUST follow the dictates of that religion, as interpreted by the government, that is a basic violation of freedom.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**Alastriona** 1 day ago

Ms Bayat I wish you only the best. I hope that one day you will be able to dress as your conscience dictates in your own country.  
I apologize that my country is no longer haven of freedom seekers it used to be.

Like 58 Reply Link Report



**Memphisto** 1 day ago

Yeah, Iran has it's mullahs and now we have ours.

Like 25 Reply Link Report



**Cleo G** 1 day ago

We have a dullah who is fullah poolah.

Like 7 Reply Link Report



**DaddySantaClause** 1 day ago

Bayat, as a Muslim born in the United States to Christian parents and whose ancestors were once slaves, when I came of age, I had a choice to accept or reject any religion. I choose Islam. Cultural Islam without belief is hollow faith. Seek happiness in any country that will accommodate you, but remember - if you seek the rewards of this life, don't forget the hereafter!

Like Reply Link Report



**Wiggles** 1 day ago

How many religions did you reject? How did you construct a framework from which to identify "true" vs "false" religions? Why should you reject the ~8,000 gods that humans have been known to worship, but accept just one that humans also worship? Given the priors, isn't it more reasonable to assume that there are no gods?

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Mackarel** 1 day ago

What hereafter? All religions make dummies out of people.

Like Reply Link Report



**Egads2** 1 day ago

Ms. Bayat, all the best to you.

Like 9 Reply Link Report



**dead reckoning** 1 day ago

Checkmate.

Like 5 Reply Link Report



**Rockmebaby** 1 day ago

Between the religious nutcases and the money-grubbers, the human species doesn't stand a chance.

Like 5 Reply Link Report



**Dogs are the best people** 1 day ago

Don't forget stupid people! They also account for a healthy percentage of the species.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Amesbury** 1 day ago

"**We are also humans, you know.**" Once upon a time we in the U S. were humans too. Not so much now, we have been trumped.

Like 78 Reply Link Report



**Wilco75** 17 hours ago

Wrong. You're fine. Don't be over dramatic.

Like Reply Link Report



**haveanicedaynowyahear** 16 hours ago

Wrong. We're not fine. We're also not dramatic.

Like 13 Reply Link Report



**Walter Kamphoefner** 12 hours ago

You've confused factual with dramatic. Sometimes facts are dramatic.

Like Reply Link Report



**lawrenceghawkins** 1 day ago

I grow weary of hearing people whine about how bad their countries of origins are, especially when their ancestors are buried there. Fight, figuratively and actively, to make the nation of your birth, better. Otherwise, it's just cowardice.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

Bayat is worried about being abused, sent to prison if she returns to Iran. She has said there is good evidence for that position. Why would it be cowardice to want to stay out of prison?

Like 29 Reply Link Report



**lawrenceghawkins** 1 day ago

**lawrencehawkins** 1 day ago

Odd. Back in the 1970s/1980s her countrymen overthrew the Persian monarchy in favor of a Islamic Theocracy. 40 (+/-) years on, she now complains about HER current government. This whine isn't getting any better with age. Bottom line, THIS is what her people wanted.

Like 2 Reply Link Report

**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

She is complaining that she is getting indications from Iran that she will be persecuted if she goes back to Iran. Whatever happened in the past will not change that fact.

Like 6 Reply Link Report

**lawrencehawkins** 1 day ago

Oh, yeah, because she's going to make things better in England.

Like 2 Reply Link Report

**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

What does that have to do with the messages she is getting from Iran?

Like 3 Reply Link Report

**lawrencehawkins** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

What indeed? People get all kinds of, "Messages." Martin Luther King got, "Messages." He stood and fought, anyway, and inspired a world. FDR got messages, right after Pearl Harbor was attacked. He sat in a wheelchair and fought...two wars at the same time. Abraham Lincoln got a message when the Confederate racists attacked Fort Sumter. I could go on. Ask them about, "Messages."

Like Reply Link Report

**nancyjt** 1 day ago





Ignored.

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

The messages Bayat is getting from Iran say that she will be persecuted if she goes back to Iran. It is those messages that are the primary reason Bayat has written this article and create the condition at issue. Your remark about her doing something to make England better is beside the point, beside the issue at hand.

Like 3 Reply Link Report



**lawrenceghawkins** 1 day ago

Ummmm, you mean like American Civil Right workers, college kids for the most part, got from the Kluckheads. Ok. Go on. I'm listening.

Like Reply Link Report



**DC\_Local** 1 day ago

She might, how would you know?

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**lawrenceghawkins** 1 day ago

Might what?

Like Reply Link Report



**SqueakyRat** 1 day ago

What are some of your recent acts of political heroism, Lawrence?

Like 5 Reply Link Report



**Steve Davis** 18 hours ago



"Martin Luther King got 'messages.'" He certainly did. The last one was a doozy. I have absolutely no idea what your message is supposed to tell us. Perhaps you'd like to take Bayat's place so that you can be tortured and imprisoned in Iran? I'm sure you'll be fine with it, according to your "messages" theme.

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**DC\_Local** 1 day ago

Puhleeze, we installed the Shah, we trained his SAVAT to torture and keep him in power, we trained his military. When I was in basic training in '78 there were 5,000 Iranian getting air force training.

We overthrew a democratically elected government and installed the Shah, we paid their neighbor to attack them, we shot down their airliner. We are responsible for the revolution and anything since then. if we leave them completely alone, then they can do what they want

Like 1 Reply Link Report



**lawrenceghawkins** 1 day ago

PLEASE, go back and read. The, "Shah" was already, "Installed," by birth. His countrymen, rightfully so, kicked him out. Then THEY, not America, created an Islamic State. What's your point?

Like 2 Reply Link Report



**DC\_Local** 4 hours ago

ok, so you would be infavor of the queen taking back the US? that you would even suggest a deposed royal being returned over a democratically elected PM is ridiculous. stop wasting our time

Like Reply Link Report



**MaryGJ** 1 day ago

I'm pretty sure she is under 40, which means this is not HER

Shohreh Bayat: I loosened my hijab at a chess championship. Now I'm afraid to return to Iran. - The Washington Post government.

And the Persian monarchy was corrupt. Perhaps the lesson is about absolute power.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**lawrenceghawkins** 1 day ago

Ok. The Persian monarchy was corrupt. I wish I had a nickel for EVERY time I've heard local Iranians, Moslem/Muslim and Bahai, tell me the same about the current Iranian government. What's your point?

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**jleeeeps** 1 day ago

The US and Britain overthrew the democratically elected government, to keep control of the Iranian oil when the government wanted to nationalize it (and rightfully so). We installed and supported the brutal Shah, who was finally overthrown when he came to the US for cancer treatments. We started it for all the wrong selfish reasons, and now we blame the Iranians. Nice touch.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**lawrenceghawkins** 1 day ago

Let's be MORE specific. As I recall from DC Public Schools, it was British Petroleum and American Oil Company, who have since merged, and is now BP. BTW, where do you buy your gas?

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Yorgus** 1 day ago

The Persian monarchy was a sham, put into power by the US and UK—the prime minister was overthrown in a coup engineered by the CIA and MI6. Mohammed Reza Pahlavi (the Shah) was a hated monarch. Iranians had enmity towards the US from the early 1950s; it festered until the

Embassy occupation of the 1970s, and still exists today.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Mackarel** 1 day ago

It's like saying Trump is what the people wanted, and I shouldn't complain about him! I know or don't want to be judged because of dumb and the crazies in this country. The Persian monarchy was put in place by Britain and the US after overthrowing a democratically elected leader in Iran. So Bottom line, look at your own house for causing troubles all around the world.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**Jorge N** 1 day ago

Yes, obviously all of those refugees, exiles and migrants should have just stayed in their countries to face persecution, poverty and oppression! How dare they seek safety for themselves and their families in the face of terrible injustice and imminent danger.

"Stay and fight" is a statement that exudes such privilege and ignorance.

So she's a coward for recognizing if she goes back, she will likely face punishment, prison or worse?

She seems pretty brave to me.

Like  11 Reply  Link  Report 



**lawrenceghawkins** 1 day ago *(Edited)*

Yeah. Brave. Shouting from England. I'm an American. WE AMERICANS know a little about fighting injustice. No educated person would call Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, Little Round Top, Birmingham, or Selma, "Privilege." "Responsibility?" Yes. "Love of Country?" Yes. "Tenaciousness?" Yes. "Patriotism?" DEFINITELY. #USA

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**DC\_Local** 1 day ago


your view of history sounds like it is from cartoons. 2/3 of colonists had no need to rebel.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**lawrenceghawkins** 1 day ago

Yet, today, this is the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. What's your point?

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**DC\_Local** 4 hours ago

my point was this injustice you speak of didn't seem to exist for 2/3rds of the colonists. Just be glad the English didn't want to fight us.

Like  Reply  Link  Report 



**Mackarel** 1 day ago

What did you do to fight justice? What are you doing about the descent into corruption and sleaze of our government. I bet you're looking the other way and actually admiring this banana republic.

Like  1 Reply  Link  Report 



**QB1111** 1 day ago

Good luck in your brave quest for freedom

Like  35 Reply  Link  Report 



**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

Bayat, If you can hang on in Britain we hope to remove Trump this November

and his Muslim ban about this time next year.

Like  68 Reply  Link  Report 



**Ram13** 1 day ago

Yes, please God

Like  35 Reply  Link  Report 



**Richard King** 1 day ago

Amen, brother.

Like  24 Reply  Link  Report 



**Cold One** 1 day ago

I'm sorry for the trepidation this woman feels. But there are easily available pictures on Google of Iranian women who do not wear the hijab, apparently with no consequences to their lives or liberty. Iranians should be wary of allowing western media to use them as propaganda pieces in their never ending campaign to demonize Islam.

Like  2 Reply  Link  Report 



**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

This is Bayat's own story. That is not propaganda.

Like  18 Reply  Link  Report 



**Kimoco8** 1 day ago

This is a load of nonsense. Unless you are talking about Americans who came from Iran. Another man here who known nothing.

Like  3 Reply  Link  Report 



**DaddySantaClause** 1 day ago

I agree with your comments, I'm not sure what to make of this story other than

the fact it's being used as a propaganda piece.

Like  1   Reply    Link    Report 



**Neil Nelson** 1 day ago

Why is it propaganda? It looks like a very credible story.

Like  4   Reply    Link    Report 



**DaddySantaClause** 1 day ago

Nelson, you can use a legitimate story for propaganda.

Like    Reply    Link    Report 