



## Craig Whittaker MP

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### **Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps**

Thank you for contacting me about the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and its role in human rights violations and EDM 483.

Members of the Government / Parliamentary Private Secretaries do not, by convention, sign any Early Day Motions, as doing so is likely to breach the Ministerial Code's rules on collective responsibility. As I am a Government Whip, this convention applies to me.

That said, the human rights situation in Iran is a serious concern. It is right that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has designated Iran as a country whose human rights record needs urgent attention.

The latest report by the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Iran sets out the role of the IRGC in human rights violations in Iran, in particular, their role in the harassment and detention of minority groups.

Several prominent members of the IRGC are listed under EU human rights sanctions which we support.

The Government knows that the IRGC and associated entities are involved in multiple regional conflicts, including operating through proxies.

The UK is clear that Iran should cease disruptive involvement in regional conflicts, and should instead look to play a constructive role in ensuring regional stability. I am pleased that the Foreign Secretary raised his concerns during his visit to Iran on 9-10 December.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Whittaker'.

Craig Whittaker MP