

The Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs - Penny Wong
The Hon. Minister for Home Affairs / Immigration – Tony Burke
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Wednesday, 18 March 2026

Dear Ministers,

I write to express my strongest possible objection to any decision or policy that would permit members or affiliates of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to enter Australia.

Australia has long taken a principled and public stand against terrorism. Successive governments have affirmed that individuals linked to terrorist organisations, human rights abuses, or acts of political violence have no place within our borders. This position reflects not only our legal obligations, but also our national values: respect for human dignity, the rule of law, and the protection of civilian life.

The IRGC's record stands in stark contradiction to those values. It has been widely accused of involvement in the repression of civilians, including lethal crackdowns on protest movements, as well as systemic human rights abuses. Reports from international organisations and media have documented acts of violence against unarmed civilians, including the targeting of demonstrators, and the brutal enforcement of social restrictions. Particularly disturbing are credible accounts of severe punishments inflicted on women accused of minor dress code violations, including acts that have resulted in permanent injury. Allowing individuals associated with such an organisation to enter Australia risks undermining our credibility as a nation committed to opposing terrorism and defending human rights. It also raises serious concerns for community safety and social cohesion, particularly among Australians who have fled persecution and expect this country to remain a safe haven.

I respectfully urge the Government to:

- Reaffirm its commitment to denying entry to individuals linked to organisations involved in terrorism or systemic human rights abuses
- Ensure that all visa and entry decisions involving IRGC members or affiliates are subject to the highest level of scrutiny
- Provide transparency to the public regarding the safeguards in place to prevent entry of individuals associated with such groups

Australia's integrity on the global stage depends on consistency between our stated principles and our actions. Permitting entry to individuals tied to organisations with such a record would represent a serious departure from those principles.

I ask that you act decisively to ensure that Australia remains firm in its opposition to terrorism and in its defence of fundamental human rights.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Lambert