

WOMEN IN THE WORLD



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"Being a woman is not a way for humiliation or punishment!" (Kurd Men for Equality/Facebook)

PRETTY IN PINK

Iran's Men Don Dresses to Support Viral Campaign

MAY 2, 2013 11:00 PM - BY SOLMAZ SHARIF

Iranian men are taking cross-dressing selfies for an online movement protesting a sexist punishment for criminals in Kurdistan.



Last month, an Iranian judge in the northwest Kurdish city of Marivan handed down a rare form of punishment to three men involved in a violent street fight: they were to be paraded around town trussed up in women's clothes.

Turns out, the women of Marivan were less than amused by the sentence. When the first convict marched down the streets on April 15 clad in a veil, dozens of angry women turned out to protest, calling the perp walk sexist. Local police cracked down on the demonstrations, breaking one woman's leg and injuring several other activists, according to the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran. Citizen journalists recorded videos of the punishment and the protest and uploaded them onto YouTube, while activists created a Facebook page—"Being a Woman Is Not Shameful"—and invited Iranian men to join them in solidarity. So far, the page has gained more than 13,000 likes in the past week, and thousands of male supporters have submitted pictures of themselves dressed up in female finery for the cause.

Ahmad Rafat, an Iranian journalist who works for the Italian media, is a big supporter of the campaign and sent in a picture of himself clad in Kurdish women's clothing, with the caption: "There lies such sanctity in women's clothing that not every man deserves to wear it."

"My main reason to join this campaign was to protest this mindset that being a woman is shameful," Rafat said. "When any officials order such a sentence, it is an insult to my mother and to my Kurdish nanny who raised me ... [and] we need to support such campaigns to encourage

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A DAY AGO
BY AMANA FONTANELLA-KHAN



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I support the sentiment but I suggest an immediate visit from- Queer Eye for the Straight Guy.

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