



Statement in support of our Iranian students

The mission of Re:Anima – the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Animation - is to provide opportunities to animators from all cultures, beliefs and orientations to express themselves through animation. We want to create a safe space where diverse talents can coexist in a positive atmosphere, encourage each other and foster new ideas and perspectives. As much as our education is about animation, it is also about tolerance, respect, dialogue and equality. In a world that is undergoing serious social, political and ecological changes we consider it of the highest importance to help giving a voice to the voiceless, and to create an environment where they can develop their unique artistic visions.

Re:Anima stands in strong support of students from all over the world who have to fight for the basic rights to express themselves and to be educated under safe and inclusive circumstances. On a daily basis we notice how our own students are being affected by the conditions in several of their home countries: the threat of war, poverty, ecologic disasters, violence, intolerance and different forms of social-political injustice. No one should have to spend their energies being concerned about their own safety or the one of their relatives and friends at home. They should not have to be afraid of the repercussions of voicing their opinions or making statements through their art. Our students have the potential to bring new colors to the world, and it is our mission to give them the tools to do so, in the most beautiful, passionate and unexpected ways.

In full acknowledgment of the difficulties and hardships faced by students in many regions of the world, with this statement we want to express our support to the women of Iran, who are currently under threat in a struggle for their most basic human rights. We want to express our gratitude and admiration to those Iranian students, teachers, artists and professors who are fighting, peacefully, every day again, at the risk of their own lives, for their freedom of speech and belief, and for their physical, mental and spiritual integrity. Their statements are courageous, positive and hopeful. It breaks our hearts to hear that hundreds of people have suffered severe retaliations because of their peaceful requests for having their human rights respected.

Re:Anima is proud to be the host to several Iranian students who make a difference with their art. Through their eyes we continue to be amazed by the overwhelming beauty of Iran's visual culture, poetry and storytelling. We can only imagine what it must be like to be in their shoes, and we would like to express our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy, hoping that every small gesture can make a difference in the bigger picture.

We stand with the women of Iran.

The Re:Anima Teachers Team and Management Board