



## **Kylie Moore-Gilbert shows characteristic Australian spirit despite the odds**

*Statement on the second anniversary of Kylie Moore-Gilbert's detention*

*FreeKylieMG*

*11 September 2020*

This Sunday (September 13) marks two years since Dr Kylie Moore-Gilbert was wrongfully detained in Iran. On that day, Kylie's friends in her hometown of Bathurst will be running in support of their former schoolmate, neighbour and friend. The FreeKylieMG group invites Australians and supporters of Kylie around the world to virtually join Kylie and her friends on a run, and to share photos of themselves running or walking on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag #WeRunWithKylie.

The call to run follows news from a source inside Iran's Qarchak prison, where Kylie is held, that Kylie has been running during her short visits to the prison exercise area. Although she has only prison-issued plastic bathroom slippers for footwear, Kylie is jogging laps of the tiny enclosed space in an effort to preserve her strength and psychological well-being.

The FreeKylieMG group welcomes this news, which shows that Kylie continues to fight back and show remarkable resilience against the odds. Fitness has always been important to Kylie. In Melbourne she was an avid gym-goer, and in the past she has run a half marathon to raise funds for cancer research.

Dr Jessie Moritz, a friend and colleague of Kylie's from the Australian National University and a member of the FreeKylieMG group said: 'Running with Kylie sends a message of love and support to Kylie and her family. She may be 12,000 kilometers away, but this way she'll know that she's not alone when she runs; we'll be right there with her every day until she's home.'

To mark the second anniversary of Kylie's incarceration in Iran, the FreeKylieMG campaign is coming together with friends of Kylie's in Bathurst, the 'Free Dr Kylie Moore-Gilbert' change.org

petition, and the Facebook 'Free Kylie Moore-Gilbert' campaign, to run for Kylie, and we invite Kylie's supporters near and far to join Kylie on a virtual run on Sunday.

*How to participate:*

1. Join Kylie on her run on or after Sunday 13 September. Run, walk, or skip alongside Kylie. Run for 2 minutes, 20 minutes, or 200 minutes - it's up to you!
2. Take a photo, and post it to Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram using the hashtag #WeRunWithKylie.
3. Tag us on Twitter [@FreeKylieMG](https://twitter.com/FreeKylieMG), Instagram [@FreeKylieMG](https://www.instagram.com/FreeKylieMG), or Facebook <https://bit.ly/3jQMtYU>
4. Tag your friends, family, and co-workers – and ask them to Run with Kylie too!
5. Remember to stay COVID-19 safe – follow local regulations and maintain 1.5 metre spacing

\*No social media? No problem! Email your photo to us at [FreeKylieMG@gmail.com](mailto:FreeKylieMG@gmail.com) and we'll post it for you.

\*\*Find more information and detailed instructions about #WeRunWithKylie and other ways to help at <https://freekylie.net/>

Dr Kylie Moore-Gilbert is an academic from the University of Melbourne who was detained in Iran on 13 September 2018 on charges that Kylie and the Australian government entirely reject. After being held in solitary confinement for nearly two years, Kylie was transferred to Qarchak prison in late July 2020. The prison, which is a disused chicken farm, is known as one of the worst women's prisons in the world. It is overcrowded - with a population that fluctuates between 1200 and 2000, poor ventilation, and sewage that regularly flows into the prison courtyards. It is the site of a current COVID-19 outbreak.

The FreeKylie group is a group of Kylie's friends and colleagues that was formed to call on the Australian government to urgently explore all diplomatic options to bring Kylie home. We ask Australians to tell their friends and family about our wonderful friend Kylie, and to use the templates on our website to tell your local MP that the Australian government must leave no stone unturned to bring her home.

*Dr Jessie Moritz, Dr Dara Conduit, Professor Greg Barton and Dr Marika Sosnowski are available for interviews and further comment. Please contact Dr Jessie Moritz (+61 430 369 892) to arrange.*