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# Human Right Developments in Iran

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**ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

**[www.odvv.org](http://www.odvv.org)**

**The Human Rights Development of Iran Newsletter,** stresses on the promotion of human rights through monitoring positive actions and developments that have occurred with regards to human rights and raising the awareness of the audience in this regard. This newsletter, compiles measures taken for the promotion and realisation of human rights for the transparency of the real human rights situation in Iran through benefiting from correct information and credible documents.

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# **1- Children's Rights**

## **1-1 Adoption of the Generalities of the Protection of Children and Juveniles Draft Bill**

The Generalities of Protection of Children and Juveniles Draft Bill took place on 24 September 2018 in the Iranian Parliament with 158 votes for, 18 against and 10 abstains from a total number of 222 Members of Parliament present. This legislation in 51 articles has been compiled in the government towards the prevention of child abuse, trafficking in children and also the protection of children and juveniles

### **Crimes Covered by the Bill**

Paragraphs of this Bill detail crimes related to labour, financial and or tools exploitation, sexual exploitation crimes, exploitation on cyberspace, crimes related to exploitation of children to commit offenses that include trafficking and or distribution of vulgar CDs, assault and battery and the sale of children, and crimes related to sale of children's organs. Also any form of abuse and harassment of children and juveniles which results in physical, mental and moral damages and threatens their physical and mental health is prohibited and according to this Bill will be punishable.

### **Bill's Objectives**

Empowerment of children to take on various roles in social life, requires their protection against threats. Contemplation in the Iranian legal system shows that some examples of Rights of the Child such as protection of children from physical and mental abuse, the right to defence in the criminal justice process, right to identity freedom and independence of expression of opinion, have fair opportunity for development, education and training and their necessary resources, and full opportunity for play and recreation are highlighted in the Iranian laws and regulations.

The existence of some shortfalls in various areas of children's rights, led the authorities to compile a comprehensive law for the protection of children and juveniles rights while recognising the rights of these individuals, guarantee of the application of suitable criminal proceedings against the violators of these rights have been foreseen and at the same time through the adoption of preventative and protective measures, to prevent crimes getting committed against them

## **1-2 Formation of the Child and Juvenile Fraction in the Iranian Parliament**

The Child and Juvenile Fraction was launched in the Islamic Parliament. The aim in setting up this Fraction is the protection of human dignity and social investments and special attention to children and juveniles rights in

various educational, cultural and social, health and hygiene, welfare services and their human dignity.

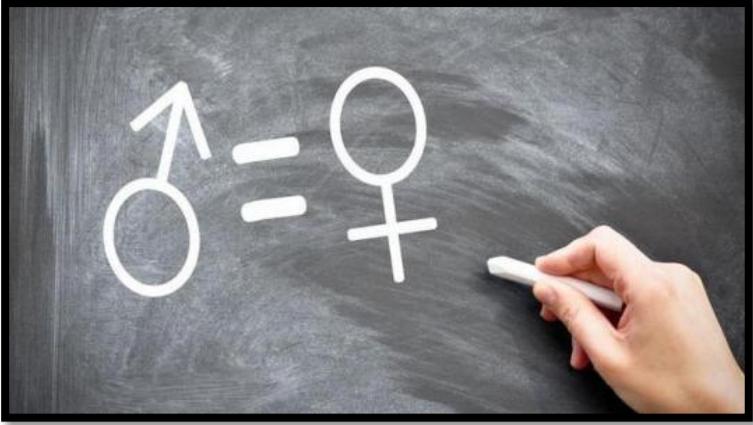
On this basis, changes and developments and planning in cultural, economic and social infrastructures, and their sustainability mechanism overall perspective and codified planning for the promotion of education, training, health and identity of children, child labourers and children deprived of education, children without caretakers or with bad caretakers, divorce children, damaged and vulnerable children, children below poverty line, child marriage, and child abuse are all top priority issues of this Fraction

### **1-3 Enforcement of Punishment of Parents for Denying their Children Education**

The Protection of Children and Juveniles Bill which has been mentioned in the beginning of this Newsletter states: “In the event that parents prevent their child from attending school and or fail to register the birth of their child, the Welfare Organization and law enforcement are tasked to report these cases to the Judiciary.” To this aim, bureaus have opened in justice department branches for the protection of children to control children’s dangerous situations. On this basis special branches investigate and facilitate the basis for children’s education.

Even if the Education and Training Department is notified that a child has been deprived of education, it can intervene and report the issue to relevant authorities to

investigate. If a school finds out that parents have prevented their child to attend school, they must report it to the Protection Bureau, of course this law has passed recently and gradually these Bureaus will set up and expand. This law now is enforceable.



## **2- Women's Rights**

### **2-1 Adoption of Facilitation of Women Leaving the Country Proposal**

The Facilitation of Women Leaving the Country Proposal was ratified on 5 August 2018 in the Islamic Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission. According to this bill of the Commission, a clause will be added to paragraph 3 of Article 18 of the Passport Act, by which women who wish to participate in scientific, cultural, sports and the like conferences, in instances where their husbands do not give them permission to leave the country, they can leave the country with the

permission of relevant authorities and if not the permission of the prosecutor's office.

### Permission for Single or Married Women to Leave the Country

According to the Passport Act, married women require their husbands' permission to leave the country, unless they receive permission to leave the country in the marriage contract, or after marriage the husband gives permission to leave the country in the form of unbreakable authorization.

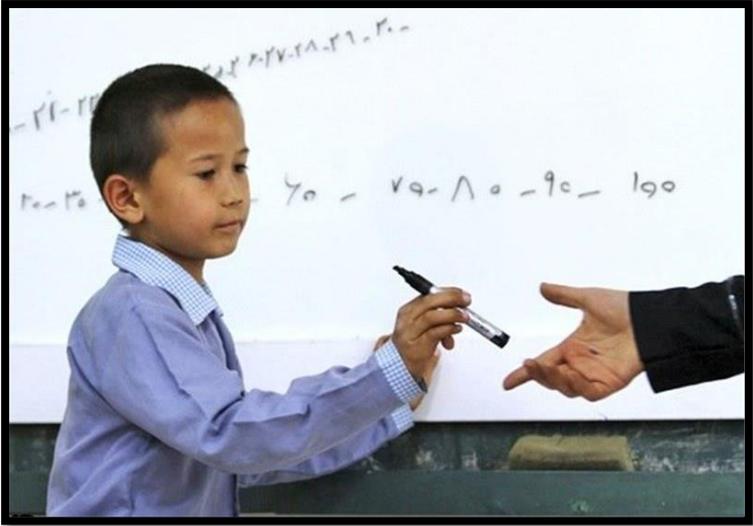
### Removal of Restrictions in the Way of Women Leaving the Country

According to existing laws, women require their husbands' permission to leave the country, meanwhile the refusal to give permission to prominent women that include national sports champions has brought a wave of complaints by women and they demand exemptions be made in this regard. This proposal deals with particular and emergency circumstances and allows married women to make pilgrimages, trips to Olympiads and international sports events or participate in seminars and conferences without the permission of the husband and they can leave the country by notifying relevant authorities about their intentions to leave the country.

### A Step towards Reforms and Bringing Laws Up-to-Date

In view of the fact that the Passport Act was ratified in 1972, the laws for these women or even all women is in

need of amendment, because Article 21 of the Civil Code obliges the government to create women's rights in all aspects in accordance with Islamic principles and facilitate the basis for the development of the character of women and grant them material and moral rights. On the other hand, Article 19 of the Constitution deems equal rights to all the people of Iran and Article 20 also states that all individuals of the nation, both men and women are equally protected by the law and have all human, political, economic, social and cultural rights through the observation of Islamic principles.



## **3- Refugees Rights**

### **3-1 Opening of Shohadayeh Danaee School**

The Shohadayeh Danaee School was opened in the Hesar Ghazi village of Varamin with the efforts of the Education and Training Ministry of Iran and support of the UNHCR. The aim in the opening of this school is to ease all children's access, such as Afghan children, to free education. The name of this school is in memory of a number of students who were killed in a terror attack against an education complex in east Kabul, the Afghan capital. More than 50 students were killed in that attack and 70 injured in the attack that took place in August this year.

According to published official reports in Tehran's provincial towns only 110,000 foreign national students out of a total of 1.4 million students are studying in schools.

Currently foreign students are studying in more than 28,000 schools, and following the order of the Supreme Leader back in 2015, Iranian schools were ordered to take in even undocumented foreign children. In this regard in this current year alone, 128,000 foreign undocumented students registered in Iranian schools and are studying.

Annually the Iranian government allocates 10,000 billion Rials for the education of foreign students, while foreign aid in this regard is much lower.

The average education coverage of foreign students is 60 percent, but in Iran the figure reaches up to 85 percent.

### **3-2 Confirmation of Afghan Refugee Children's Rights to Education in Iran Up to High School Diploma**

With the efforts of NGOs and relevant authorities with the order of the Supreme Leader of Iran, Afghan refugees' children's rights to education in Iran up to high school has been confirmed.

With the order of the Supreme Leader with regards to no Afghan child in Iran must be denied education in 2017 the 2004 proposal of the Cabinet with regards to the education

of undocumented children was suspended and the opportunity for the education of Afghan children up to high school diploma was ratified.

## **4-Introduction of Human Rights Institutions**

### **4-1 Women and Family Affairs Department**

The Women and Family Affairs Department is a governmental organization and under the supervision of the Executive Power of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Some the duties of this Department include the preparation and approval of the Women and Family Affairs Comprehensive Plan, that includes the strengthening of the family institution strengthening pivots, review of relevant laws and regulations, prevention of social damages, development and organization of economic-income matters with prioritization of jobs from the home for women heads of household and women with bad heads of household, social provision, recreation, research, expansion of a culture of modesty and hijab, promotion of health, development of the capacities of NGOs, promotion of the

capacities of women managers and elite women, development of international interactions, deepening religious beliefs and reforming the administrative structure of women and the family. And the executive history of this Department include, recommendation for the facilitation of an international dialogue, presentation of family research analysis, social emergency for confronting violence and abuse and prevention of the escalation of social damages, granting loans to help women heads of household and follow up on issuing identity documents for the children of Iranian women.

It must be said that this Department is one of the Deputies of the Presidency and is run by the Deputy President.