

Human Right Developments in Iran

Newsletter No.05



MAY 2019

ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

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.

Contents

1-Refugees Rights	4
1-1 Universal Public Health Insurance for Refugees in Iran	4
2-Right to Education	6
2-1 Identification of and Returning Nomadic Children Deprived of Education back to Education.....	6
3-Human Rights	7
3-1 Pardoning of 130,000 Prisoners.....	7
4-Women’s Rights	8
4-1 1500 Women Threatened by Violence Go to Safe Houses Launching of 24 Centres for Runaway Girls.....	8
4-2 132 Children of Divorcees’ Visitation Centres Launched.....	9
5-Introduction of Human Rights Institutions	11
5-1 Imam Ali Popular Student Relief Society.....	11



1- Refugees Rights

Universal Public Health Insurance for Refugees in Iran

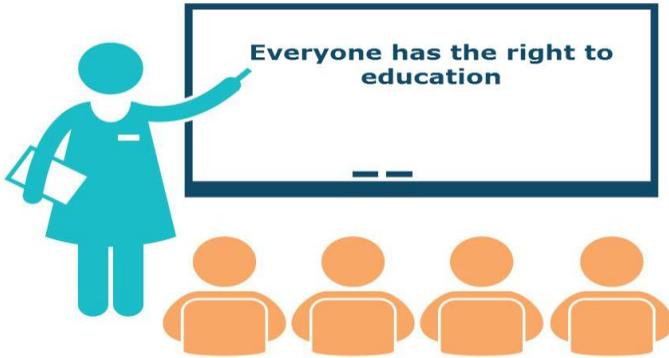
The Universal Public Health Insurance (UPHI) is a government-led tripartite agreement between the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant's Affairs (BAFIA), UNHCR, and the Iran Health Insurance Organization (IHIO) which started five years ago. Its aims at providing insurance services to vulnerable refugees residing in Iran.

According to the announcement released by the UNHCR in Tehran, the fifth round of health insurance services for all refugees who have Amayesh Cards has started. In 2019, 92,000 vulnerable refugees will be registered in this programme free of charge and benefit from medical treatment insurance services.

In this program more than 500 Government Services Counter Centres (Pishkhan Centers) throughout the country are ready to provide services for the registration of refugees. The Health Insurance Plan offers all

registered refugees the opportunity to enrol in the heavily government-subsidised national medical insurance scheme, which helps cover hospitalization and para-clinical expenses at any public hospital affiliated with the Ministry of Health. All the per capita expenses of the refugees are covered by the financial backing of UNHCR in this government programme.

With the rise in the popularity of refugees' health insurance plan and also increase in refugees' understanding of the benefits of health and treatment insurance, the Government Services Counter Centres continue to offer high quality support and services to refugees in Iran.



2- Right to Education

Identification of and Returning Nomadic Children Deprived of Education back to School

The Identification of Children Deprived of Education and the Root Causes project has been conducted by the Ministry of Social Welfare, one of the target groups of which are out-of-school children.

There are numerous factors contributing to deprivation of nomadic children from education, some of which are: children working in farms and inaccessibility of education centres.

Provision of services to identified children has begun and there is hope that these children can enjoy their basic right to education, like the other children.

Alongside the provision of education services to project's identified children, the identification of other children who might be deprived of education continues.



3- Human Rights

Pardoning of 130,000 Prisoners

In the latest meeting of the Iranian provinces' *Diah* Bureaus, stress was made on further assistance to individuals who were imprisoned for unintentional crimes. NGOs and charities have taken effective steps towards support for these prisoners, particularly in the recent years. In the last three decades, more than 130,000

prisoners have been released from prison with the help of popular NGOs. These prisoners were mostly imprisoned for unintentional crimes and financial debts.

It must be said that the payment of *Diah* to the avenger of blood (*Oliayah dam*) to the victims of unintentional crimes is stressed in **Islamic** Sharia just like some of the religions. Therefore, the issue is bold in current laws of the country. However, some individuals who commit unintentional crimes suffer from lack of financial resources and cannot afford to pay for the damages they have caused, consequently, they are sent to prison. *Diah* bureaus have been set up to help such cases and provide financial assistance.



4-Women's Rights

4-1 1500 Women Threatened by Violence Go to Safe Houses – Launching of 24 Centres for Runaway Girls

Up to the middle of April 2019, twenty-four safe houses were launched for women threatened by violence or those that run away from home. These shelters provide support services for women and girls that have been subjected to domestic violence.

There are currently 36 social emergency centres in the country that are active and in the event where a city or town does not have one of these centres, these women can stay in crisis intervention centres.

In these centres both victims of abuse and those threatened by abuse receive services. In the cases of women who have children, the children will also receive services. Currently 7 governmental and 17 nongovernmental centres take these women in and provide them with Counselling support. Women who suffer from physical injuries are referred to hospitals with the help of medical sciences universities.

These centres also offer services to individuals who have committed violence. They receive training on not to repeat such acts. 36 percent of individuals over 15 suffer from some sort of psychological disorders which require therapy.

4-2 132 Children of Divorcees' Visitation Centres Launched

160 child visit centres will be launched till early March 2021. Before, late April 2019, 132 out of the 160 centres

have begun their operation and the rest will gradually be added to the grid. The centres aim at creating a calm atmosphere for visits between children and parents who have become separated for whatever reason. Furthermore, there are more than one thousand family counsellors in these centres who provide free counselling to children and their parents. To-date 70 thousand visits have taken place in these centres and 740 reconciliations have also taken place between divorced parents.

Currently there are child visit centres in 24 provinces and it is scheduled for all provinces of the country to have these centres before the end of the above-mentioned deadline.

Also, in these centres, more than 342 judges and 136 women consultant judges provide specialised services to individuals in order to speed up the support for families.



5- Introducing Human Rights Institutions

Imam Ali Popular Student Relief Society

The Imam Ali Popular Student Relief Society is a fully independent, non-political and non-governmental organization which officially began its activities in 1999 (Permission No. 19061), and continues its activities with the official permit of the Interior Ministry. In 2010 the Society received consultative status from ECOSOC. The target community of Imam Ali Society is abused women and children. The Society believes in strengthening public participation particularly the presence of the elite in social policies and commemoration of national religious rituals for the promotion of the social conditions in society.

Imam Ali Society's mandate is to create a world based on justice and peace with a special focus on improving the situation of vulnerable individuals, particularly children.

To this aim approximately 4000 children are receiving Imam Ali Society's services in "Iranian Homes" across the country.

The Society currently has 33 Iranian Homes and 10 active offices in Tehran, Shiraz, Mashhad, Tabriz, Isfahan, Kerman, Bushehr, Kermanshah, Saari, Gorgan and Karaj.