

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)

UPR Submission

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New Zealand



سازمان دفاع از قربانیان خشونت
Organization for Defending Victims
of Violence

www.odvv.org

About ODVV

1. The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-partisan organization in Special Consultative Status to ECOSOC. ODVV was established in 1988 in Tehran and has been active in the field of human rights and humanitarian activities.

2. ODVV is also associated to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), a member of the UN Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), AMAN Network of Rehabilitation Centers in the Middle East and North Africa and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). ODVV has cooperated with international organizations in a variety of issues and has working relations with many NGOs in Iran and around the globe.

3. ODVV is focused on promoting human rights, supporting victims of violence, empowering Iranian civil society, and offering human rights consultations to the Iranian institutions and organizations. ODVV is actively involved in running various human rights education courses, workshops, seminars, and conferences. Other activities include:

- Participation in UN Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva;
- Publication of different books and booklets on human rights such as Rights of the Child, Unilateral Coercive Measures (Economic Sanctions), Racism, Racial Discrimination, Islamophobia and Xenophobia;
- Publishing *Defenders Quarterly* (in English), human rights news and developments *Weekly* (in Farsi), updating ODVV websites in English, Farsi and Arabic;
- Internship for Iranian and international students.

4. ODVV is submitting the following report on the human rights situation of New Zealand, in order to contribute to the improvement of the human rights situation.

Implementation of international human rights obligations

A. Minority Rights

7. Surveys have revealed that ethnic minorities of New Zealand experience discrimination at work, in public places and in the street, with people of higher income experiencing lower levels of social discrimination.¹ The Māori and Pacific population of the country are reported to be experiencing discriminatory treatment in health care, with their children being at more risk of abuse.²

B. The Right to Education

8. New Zealand has received 16 recommendations on the situation of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the first two UPR cycles. Available reports indicate deprivation of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants of their human rights in New Zealand especially in camps in Nauru. The bitter situation in Nauru, the absolute helplessness of asylum seekers, exacerbated by physical and mental illnesses has led to the suicide of a young Iranian man in mid June.³

9. Also, It is reported that hundreds of children in Nauru face limited access or no access to education, because the only school in asylum seekers center of Nauru was closed down in 2015, and the children who have to attend the local schools are bullied by Nauruan students. Various cases of harassment and bullying of refugee girls are reported by Nauruan boys at school in a way that the on-going challenges has forced some of the refugee children drop out of school.⁴

C. Prison Conditions

10. The disproportionate number of indigenous detainees is another source of concern in New Zealand. The high tendency of indigenous convicts to repeat crimes is an expectation expressed by human right groups and there are reports of prisoners' treatment which are recorded as cases of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.⁵ Also, the country is encouraged to make more efforts to separate juvenile female offenders from adults.

¹. <http://socialreport.msd.govt.nz/civil-and-political-rights/perceived-discrimination.html>

². https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10781130

³. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/15/iranian-asylum-seeker-dies-by-suicide-on-nauru>

⁴. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/02/13/harassment-denying-refugee-children-nauru-education>

⁵. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/new-zealand/report-new-zealand/>

D. Recommendations

11. While recognizing the New Zealand efforts to combat enforced disappearances, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) encourages the country to continue its efforts to amend the domestic legislative process for preventing enforced disappearances and acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED).

12. ODVV also encourages New Zealand to accelerate its domestic measures to move toward ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW)

13. Noting all New Zealand steps to guarantee minority children's rights, ODVV calls on the country to allocate more resources to facilitate and guarantee minority children's right to education.

14. ODVV urges New Zealand to address the challenges facing the refugees and asylum seekers specially the Iranians, in Nauru and Christmas Island.

15. ODVV calls on New Zealand to maximize its efforts to address the migrants, and minorities' right to health, education, employment, gender equality and grant them equal access to social services and opportunities.

16. Noting the national initiatives adopted by New Zealand to address the disproportionality of the population of minority detainees, we encourage the country to accelerate its measures to address the challenge and continue its plans to improve the situation of minority prisoners.