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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 in 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- Refugees Rights

## 1-1 Expansion to the Extent of Authorized Jobs for Afghan Refugees in Iran

According to the executive guidelines of the Employment Ministry, Afghan refugees in Iran are allowed to be employed in the four job categories declared by this Ministry. But at the same time due to the increase in livelihood challenges as a result of United States unilateral sanctions imposed against Iran, the Iranian government has shown notable flexibilities towards refugees' jobs and professions.

In this regard the opening of a coffee shop by two Afghan nationals in Tehran drew the attention of the media. Furthermore, with the cooperation of UNHCR the Iranian government began holding technical and vocational training courses for refugees in Iran which also was welcomed extensively.

# WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!

## 2- Women's Rights

### 2-1 Protection of Higher Education Rights for Women

Towards support for women to continue their education at higher levels, Islamic Azad University adopted the Guidelines on the Education of Girl Students Concentrated Programme. Towards the adoption of these Guidelines, one of Azad University's programmes for this year with regards to students is, the transfer of girl students to where their families live, which in this regard, some students in the framework of having points for being daughters of lecturers and another notable number of them with their own request have been transferred to the towns and cities where their families reside.

One of the necessities of the transfer of students for education in their home towns is the various cultural, higher students' expenses and travel dangers factors, and cause poor learning performances which in this regard the adoption of the aforementioned Guidelines facilitates and eases the continuation of women and girls' education in higher levels.

## **2-2 Increase in Women’s Share of Running the Country**

According to released official report, in the last two years there has been 48 percent increase in the appointment of women managers in provincial governments, governorates and their sub-divisions. This measure is towards the optimum running of the country and creation of conditions for the participation of women in management. On this basis the participation perspective for all, no deserving individual will be denied a post on the basis of gender.

## **2-3 30 Percent Increase in Women’s Share of Managerial Positions in Tehran Municipality**

Towards creating the basis for further participation of women in the decision making and decision setting fields, with a 30 percent increase in women’s share in managerial posts, Tehran Municipality has worked towards fair development of services and reduction of the gender gap.

The target community for 2019 programmes are women homemakers/house wives, women heads of household and young girls. Of course the priority of these programmes are women homemakers, which in this regard, the programmes have been launched with the “Hope Plan”. According to this plan women homemakers have held workshops on waste, safety, fire station, the environment, job creation, tourism and energy consumption management, and to-date more than 3000 women have participated in these workshops.



## **3- Children's Right**

### **3-1 Custody of 26 Thousand Children by the State Welfare Organization**

According to figures received from the State Welfare Organization, currently this Organization has the custody of more than 26,000 children, 16,000 of which are in foster care and 10,000 are looked after the various centres of this Organization.

For the provision of better services, the State Welfare Organization is currently promoting the culture of child adoption.

### **3-2 Launching of the Saving from the Scaffold Campaign**

One the country's pop singers, Mohsen Chavoshi has launched a campaign called "Saving from the Scaffold". To-date this campaign has through dialogue with plaintiff

families, convince 32 families to drop their Ghesas demand and thus 32 individuals have been saved from execution.

The latest case where he managed to convince plaintiffs was the case of an Afghan boy who was finally saved from execution with the plaintiff family's reversal of decision.



## **4- Human Rights**

### **4-1 Expansion of Support for Individuals with Disabilities**

Towards protection of the rights of people with disabilities, as one of the main bodies in this field, the State Welfare Organization has expanded its activities. Currently 1300 in-care centres on a day release basis, and 800 centres for full time care, and 500 centres as home visits and home care are active.

One of the most important actions of the State Welfare Organization with regards to keeping and caring for the disabled is within the family and society. With this view, less than 7 percent of people with disabilities are kept in the earlier mentioned centres, among which 3 to 4 percent are kept on a full-time basis.

Welfare Organization's activities for keeping the disabled is defined on the basis of family focused, society focused priorities, keeping them on day release and ultimately full-time care in centres.

Caring in full-time centres is mostly for those disabled individuals who do not have families and or their families are so helpless who cannot take care of their disabled children. Most of the expenses for keeping the disabled is with regards to pensions, livelihood expenses and home and day release centres care allowances. The targeted subsidies of the mentioned centres have been increased for provision of better services to the disabled.



## **5- Introduction of Human Rights Activists**

### **5-1 Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims**

The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims is a nongovernmental, non-political and non-profit organization, with a Consultative Status to ECOSOC. The Institute began its activities in 1998. Some of the conducted activities of the Institute over the past twenty years have been the presentation of humanitarian services, helping individuals in need, protection of social victims and free full-time of mental health patients who mostly do not have guardians or have bad guardians. The activities of this Institute is in three areas of charity, treatment, education and research which through the support of charitable individuals (donations), and social participation of volunteers and activists, a centre for keeping and treating mental health patients without guardians and impoverished patients, Ehsan House located in Kahrizak in the last 20 years has been host to 17000 individuals who after being treated in the centre went on permanent release. To-date

this charity has been host to 451 patients with mental health disorders; 343 men and 107 women have for years chosen Ehsan House as their home and live there, hoping of a day when they can return to their families and communities.

The Institute's objectives include:

1 – Protection and promotion of human dignity and giving identity to vulnerable groups of society for their empowerment

2 – Move towards eradication of poverty and provision of social justice among hurt groups.

3 – Development of participation culture and creation of sense of belonging and social responsibility

4 – Reduction of social damages.

Implementation methods of objectives:

- Launching education and full-time care centres for hurt groups that include the homeless, the elderly and mental health patients, individuals with physical and mental disabilities street children, unaccompanied children, addicts and other vulnerable and hurt and abused groups.

- Set up studies and counselling centres related to social damages

- Hold seminars, speeches and education workshops with the aim of informing and raise society's culture on the related fields.

- Write articles and conduct research and studies on the subject of prevention of social harms.
- Establish and facilitate links with national, regional and international sister organizations and facilitation of the opportunity for exchange of views and transfer of knowledge and experiences.
- Organizing and benefiting from charitable individuals for provision of finances needed by the Institute.
- Provision of treatment and rehabilitation services to those suffering from social harms.