

Annual Report 2010



Organization for Defending
Victims of Violence (ODVV)

Annual Report **2010**



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INDEX

5	Foreword
6	Introduction
8	Research and Education Projects
14	Commemoration of the International Days
18	International Conferences and Coalitions
26	Raha Centre
28	Publications
32	Statements
33	Information Dissemination
34	Library

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- **Published:** Winter 2011
- **Special thanks to:** Alireza Taheri, Dr. Parichehreh Shahsavand, Dr. Alireza Deihim, Dr. Mahmoud Reza Golshanpazhoo, Fahimeh Okhovat, Leila Enayati, Leila Behnam, Mansooreh Mohammadi, Haroot Azarian, Farzane Ranjbar, Hamideh Aboutorabi, Majid Feizikhah and all the people that assisted the ODVV in the past year.
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FOREWORD

2010 came to an end after many human rights ups and downs at national and international levels. Many developments in different areas took place this year, and their effects on human rights developments.

The financial crisis in Europe, climatic changes, the earthquake in Haiti, Wikileaks documents, terror attacks, continuation of the crisis in Iraq and Afghanistan, continuation of the Gaza blockade, post elections developments in Iran, can all be highlighted as key events of the year. All these events made human rights observers further believe that mankind continuously faces new human rights challenges, challenges that require up to date and practical solutions to overcome.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is one of these solutions which is a test of its practicality and effectiveness with regards to an equal approach to human rights among all UN Member States; human rights that more than anything else are wounded by being used as political tools by human rights violators, which are in the hands of the unjust dominant relations of the world, that are more than before are at the hands of politics and power. We hope for the day when the universal human rights system takes steps towards putting an end to the exploitation of human rights, and be able to witness a consensus between notions and cultures when codifying human rights laws for the elimination of disputes in accepting and implementing them.

This process will not happen without the participation of nongovernmental organizations which in today's world are seen as new and influential players in the international arena.

As a human rights nongovernmental organization, the ODVV endeavours through human dignity teachings to realise the "all human rights for all" slogan. This report is a brief glance into ODVV's activities in 2010.

Finally it is necessary to thank all governmental and nongovernmental experts, academics and researcher who provided us with invaluable assistance with our activities, particularly Mr. Alireza Taheri our former executive director, for whom we have special thanks.

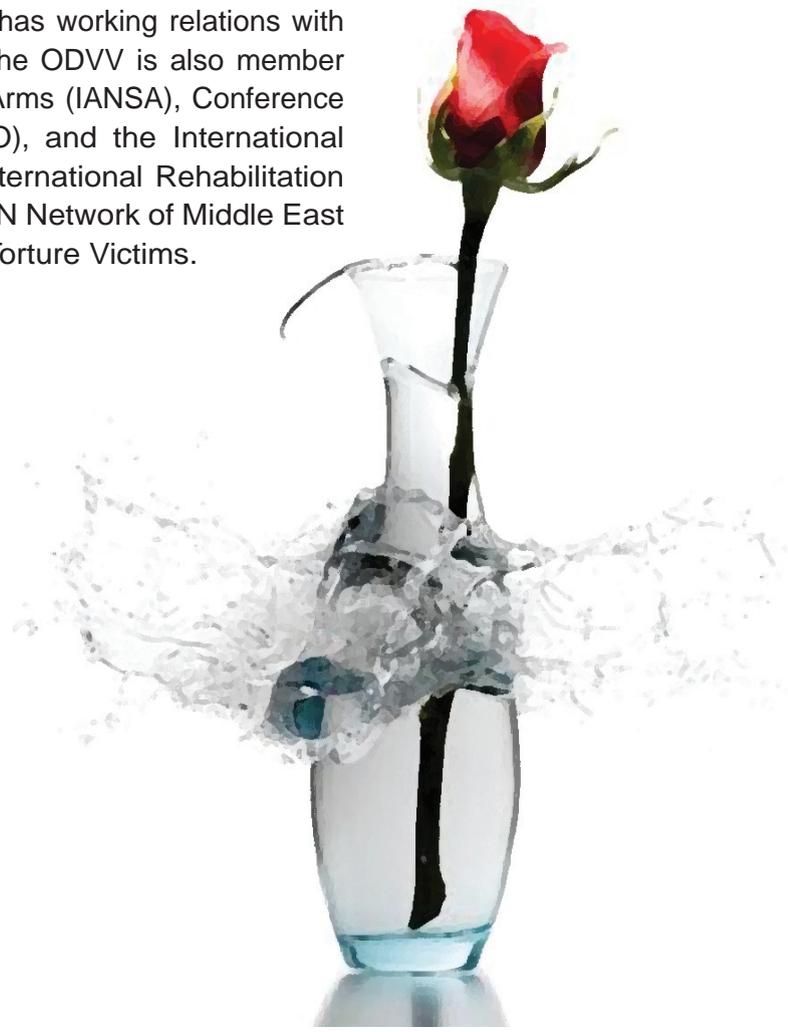
ODVV

Annual
Report
2010

5

Introduction

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organization in Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). The ODVV was established in 1988 in Tehran and has been active in the field of human rights and humanitarian activities. The ODVV is also associated to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), a participatory of the NGOs Coalition for an International Court (based in New York), and national coordinator of the Global March Against Child Labour (based in New Delhi) which cooperated in a variety of issues with international organizations and has working relations with many NGOs in Iran and around the globe. The ODVV is also member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), and the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), and AMAN Network of Middle East and North Africa Rehabilitation Centres for Torture Victims.



ODVV Mission Statement

Being committed to its moral principles the ODVV's mission is:

- To respect high human values;
- To respect the rule of law and be committed to national values, moral principles and laws,
- To respect national interests and to avoid entering political groupings,
- To respect human dignity and status, and to recognise individual's rights and respect of society's public interests,
- To believe in justice, equality and observe everyone's rights (women and children in particular),
- To believe in being responsible, transparent, answerable, honest and virtuous;
- To accept the expansion and promotion of creativity;
- To respect knowledge, competence and experiences of individuals;
- To accept ideas, notions, recommendations and constructive criticisms;
- To be committed to collective unity and cooperation;
- To promote the spirit of service and voluntary campaigns;
- To promote and expand a culture of non-violence;

For the purpose of reaching its goal which is to promote and expand a human rights culture the ODVV shall utilise the following practices:

- Hold educational, seminars, forums and workshops with the aim of information dissemination and raise the society's culture, preparation of articles and research in this regard;
- Protect and defend the rights of victims of violence and society;
- Promote and expand a culture of non-violence;
- Present advisory and counselling services for the rehabilitation of victims of society, and to refer these victims to the relevant centres to receiving care and services;
- Establishment and facilitation of links with national, regional and international organizations that follow similar objectives, and to facilitate the opportunity to exchange views, experiences and knowledge;

ODVV

Annual
Report
2010

7

Structure

The ODVV conducts its activities and campaigns under the following structure:

- Research and Education Department
- International Relations Department
- Communications Department
- Rehabilitation Department (Raha Centre)

The following is a brief narration of the activities that the aforementioned departments conducted in 2010



Research and Education Projects

For the purpose of releasing presentable researches to human rights scientific and official institutions on legal, economic, social and cultural issues, by forming experienced specialist teams on fields needed by society, the ODVV conducts general or thematic researches in the form of various projects. The researches conducted in these projects, bring about the basis to conduct practical projects such as education courses, workshops and scientific-educational sittings. What follows is a narrative of these projects and educational and research activities of the ODVV:

Community Based Awareness Raising on GBV Prevention

The “Community Based Awareness Raising on GBV Prevention” project has been designed through the signing of a trilateral contract between the ODVV, UNHCR and BAFIA, to run for 4 months.

The main addressees of the project are 100 individuals from the legal Afghan community residing in Shahr-e-Rey, who through several sittings and education courses will be introduced to GBV prevention methods. Also for the purpose of cooperation with Shahr-e-Rey key officials, 20 governmental and nongovernmental and charity representatives shall participate in this project.

The implementation stages of the project include, coordination, information dissemination sitting, group discussion sessions, strategic planning education courses, reduction of GBV and introduction to facilitating methods.



- Concentrated Group Discussion Sittings

These sittings took place separate sessions in October 2010 and with the presence of governmental and nongovernmental representatives, clergy and influential Afghan individuals. These sessions which were as part of the Community Based Awareness Raising on GBV Prevention Project were held with the subject discussion on influential factors in GBV.

These sittings were held with the aim of creating initiatives and identifying Afghan nationals views and beliefs with regards to gender discrimination, review of influential factors in the occurrence and spread of GBV and its dimensions in three discussions: governmental and nongovernmental organizations, Afghan women, and influential Afghan representatives and clergy.



- Strategic Management Education Course

This two day workshop was held in October 2010 with the presence of influential and educated Afghan women, and nongovernmental organizations in Shahr-e-Rey.

This workshop was held with the aim of setting a suitable perspective, objectives and strategies for the prevention of violence in this project. In a participatory manner and through compilation of a plan of action the participants gave their views on all the stages of the work.



- GBV Reduction Workshop

This 2-day workshop was held in October 2010 with the aim of understanding the concepts, proportions and side-effects of violence in Shahr-e-Rey.

Thirty Afghan women activists from Shahr-e-Rey participated in the workshop with the use of interactive learning and participatory training. The participants were introduced to various concepts of: violence, domestic violence and its implications, gender and genderism, gender justice, threatening factors in violence, being a victim of violence and necessary measures for the prevention of violence or avoiding violence.



- Facilitation Education Workshop

These workshops were held for the training of trainers in November 2010 as part of the project. One hundred and ten Afghan nationals, governmental and nongovernmental organizations from District 20 that included teachers, students, schoolchildren and housewives took part in this three-day course. These workshops were held with the aim of introducing the participants to necessary knowledge and skills to be facilitators and also their capacity building and social skills.

Respecting the participants, self-introduction for the purpose of communicating with others, creating concentration, guidance towards specific path, summing up and conclusions, time management, all sided participation of the participants, being neutral towards beliefs and thoughts, setting a working agenda while being flexible and paying attention to individuals being different, and establishment of coordination between individuals abilities were subjects that were discussed and reviewed in these workshops.



Humanitarian Law and Project Formulation Education Workshop

This workshop for Fars Province NGOs was held in 2 days in December 2010 with the aim of strengthening the abilities of NGOs in writing projects and increasing their knowledge of humanitarian law. This workshop was held with the ODVV with the cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Fars Province Welfare Organization and Eternal Culture House in the conference hall of the Fars Province Welfare Organization's headquarters in Shiraz.



40 Fars Province NGOs representatives from Shiraz, Kazeroon, Estehban and Marvdasht took part in the workshop which was in two parts. In the first part the discussions were, definition of project, and its success factors, project cycle, overall implementation of project, how to right the subject matter properly, project overall structure and objectives. This was done by the use of the group work methods. The second part of the workshop was dedicated to the subject of humanitarian law, the concept of human dignity, humanitarian law fundamental principles, introduction to humanitarian organizations, challenges in the way of application and confrontation with humanitarian law violations.

Socio-pathology and Diagnosing Personality Disorder II Education Workshop

This education workshop was held in May 2010 in 60 hours for psychiatrists and psychologists in theoretic and practical ways alongside the showing of films and case presentation. The aim of the workshop was to introduce the participants to psychiatric signs and symptoms and the empowerment of the participants for the treatment of personality disorder II cases. The participants were introduced to definition of personality and personality disorders, recognition approaches in personality disorders, the generalities of personality disorders and identification of various types of disorders that include: borderline personality disorder, narcissism, anti-social, playing, schizotypal, schizophrenia, paranoia, chronic obsessive, dependent, avoidable, depression and aggressive personality disorder.

CBT Principles and Generalities Education Course

This course was held from May to September 2010 for a group of psychologists and psychotherapists. This course included theory and practical work which included the showing of a video clip and presentation of a case study over 60 hours. Various aspects of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy were discussed in this course.

The Participants were introduced to the generalities (pathology theory, concepts), assessment, formulization and model building, behavioural techniques and application of cognitive behaviour techniques in mental disorders.



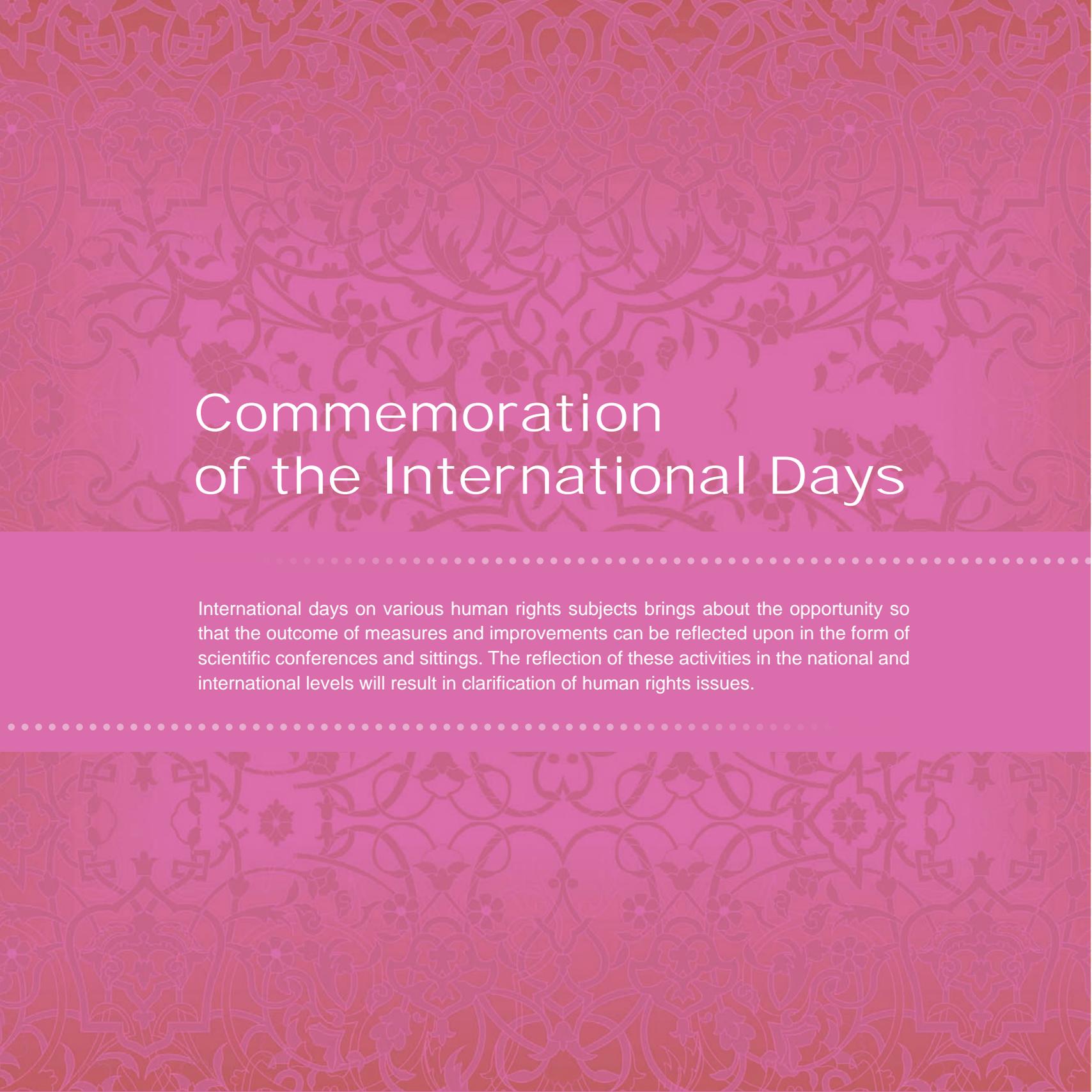
Acquiring Consultative Status from ECOSOC Education Workshop

This education workshop was held in two courses in September 2010 with the aim of increasing the international credibility and increasing dialogue opportunities at the international level for NGOs, with the participation of 50 NGOs representatives.

In a scientific and practical way the participants were introduced to the ECOSOC NGOs Committee and its duties, NGOs Liaison Office, NGOs Communications Network, concept and method of acquiring consultative status, necessary conditions to be eligible for consultative status, and different types of consultative status. The workshop finished with a Q&A session and the participants received certificates of attendance.

Schema-therapy Education Course

This course was held for mental health experts in October 2010 for 60 hours. The aim of this course was to introduce mental health experts with scientific and practical psychotherapy. This course included theory and practical work which included the showing of a video clip and presentation of a case study over forty hours. Various issues and methods of treatment regarding schema-therapy were discussed in this workshop.



Commemoration of the International Days

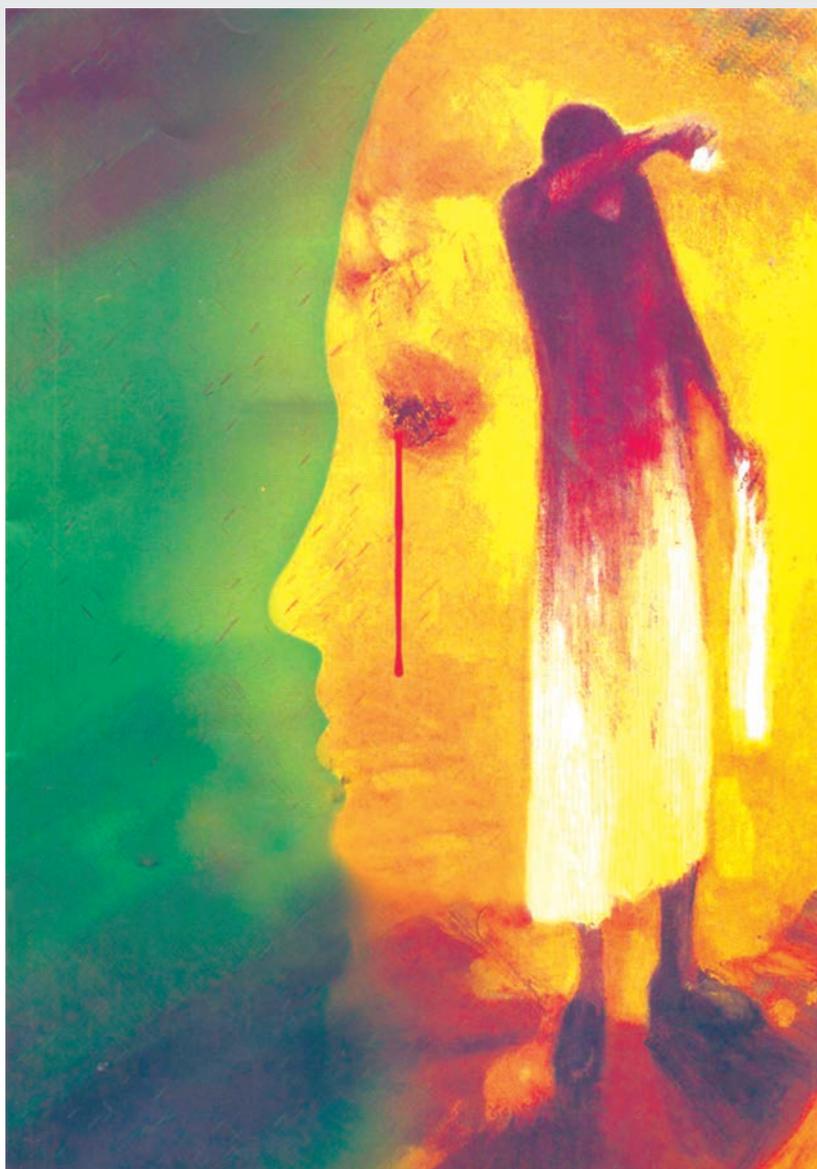
International days on various human rights subjects brings about the opportunity so that the outcome of measures and improvements can be reflected upon in the form of scientific conferences and sittings. The reflection of these activities in the national and international levels will result in clarification of human rights issues.

Day in Remembrance of Victims of Trafficking

This commemoration took place in the form of a technical sitting by the ODVV and the International Advanced Studies Centre of the Law and Political Sciences Faculty of Tehran University in December 2010, at the International Advanced Studies Centre.

A number of experts, students and NGOs in this sitting, whose aim was to raise public awareness on human trafficking prevention, and its negative proportions.

The following subjects were reviewed in this sitting: human trafficking, the history of human trafficking, the background and proportions of trafficking in women, the link between trafficking in women and slavery, causes and challenges, cultural and social solutions.





Human Rights Day 2010

Commemoration of Human Rights Day

The “Review of Human Rights in the Current Times” conference was held on the occasion of Universal Human Rights Day by the ODVV and with the cooperation of UNA-Iran, the Protection of Women and Children Refugees Association, the Protection of Child Labourers Association, and the Sustainable Peace Centre, in December 2010 at the Iranian International Conferences Organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this conference which included the reading of UN Secretary General’s message for the day, the director of the ODVV, the secretary of the Judiciary’s High Council for Human Rights, UN representative





in Iran, and the International Committee of the Red Cross representative in Iran with a subject of a glance at the application of humanitarian law in Iran, the director of the Centre for Dialogue among Religions and Civilisations on the subject of international human rights mechanisms, problems and damages, the director of the Human Rights and Cultural Diversity Centre the NAM and human rights and cultural diversity, and a number of human rights experts and researchers on the subject of discrimination and human rights from another perspective, human rights during conflict on the pretext of peace and the necessity to institutionalise human rights perspectives in all programmes. A number of representatives from various Missions in Iran, and governmental and nongovernmental representatives took part in the conference.



International Conferences and Coalitions

As a nongovernmental organization, the ODVV conducts part of its activities in the international arena, and by acquiring a special consultative status from ECOSOC the ODVV has managed to have the opportunity to participate in the former Commission on Human Rights and its substitute the Human Rights Council periodic sessions, and by issuing statements the ODVV presents its official positions.

The ODVV also endeavours to by participating in international conferences to create new opportunities and capacities in the international scene, some of these examples are as follows:

- i) First vice president of Middle East and North Africa Torture Victim Rehabilitation Centres (AMMAN NETWORK),
- ii) In association with UNDP/
- iii) Member of CONGO (Conference of Nongovernmental Organizations)
- iv) Member of Coalition for the Establishment of ICC

By being present in all the above the ODVV has the task of communication and coordination between international organizations and civil society institutions through creating the opportunity for NGOs to participate in international conferences.

Participation in the 13th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 13th Session of the Human Rights Council took place in February-March of 2010 in the UN headquarters in Geneva.

As well as the 10 regular items of the Agenda on various human rights issues, the UPR of 16 countries were reviewed and ratified.

For the first time a valuable experience happened through the presence and cooperation of Iranian NGOs and university lecturer, and some members of UNESCO'S Peace, Democracy and Human Rights Chair alongside NGOs in special consultative status to ECOSOC participated in the Session. This resulted for a clear horizon in improvement of functions and Iran's capacities in general and track 2 diplomacy.

The Iranian NGOs participation in the Session was in the form of presentation of written and oral statements. The ODVVV presented 8 written statements (one of them joint with 95 international NGOs) on the subjects of terrorism, right to development, women's rights, racism and

ODVV

Annual
Report
2010

19



Islamophobia, Palestine, and children's rights, all of which were documented at the Council. During the second and third week of the Session altogether 18 oral statements were read by the ODVV, Institute for Protecting Social Victims, Institute for Women's Studies and Research on the following subjects: right to development, children's rights, right to education, Islamophobia, violence against refugees, human rights violations in various parts of the world, and the human rights situation in Portugal, Norway, North Korea and Palestine. And in view of the atmosphere created and subject sensitivities, each one of them had particular effect particularly in the presence and concentration of Iranian NGO. The presented statements sowed a good development towards previous Sessions in both quality and quantity. The participants in the Council were a total of 28 who depending on the week's subject were present in the Council; 16 were from NGOs, and 12 were lecturers and experts from universities.

- Sideline Panels

While participating in the Session the ODVV held 5 sideline panels with the assistance of the Human Rights Council Secretariat and the Peace, Democracy and Human Rights Chair of Shahid Beheshti University were held, where a number of governmental and nongovernmental representatives from other countries participated.

- Women, Children and Human Rights:

The first panel was held in Room 27 of the Council with the speeches of university and nongovernmental lecturers and experts.

The experts reviewed the theoretic concepts of women's equality by mentioning some examples from the Iranian legal system, children's rights developments in Iran against legal challenges, and the Democracy and Human Rights Chair of Shahid Beheshti University's family legal clinic's report.



- International Mechanisms and their Preventive Levels in Human Rights Violations

The second panel was held with the speeches of a number of university lecturers and thematic experts. In this panel the international mechanisms and their preventive levels in human rights violations, the function of the ICC from preventive levels in human rights violations, the international commitments of governments in observation of human rights in theory and practice were discussed and debated the speakers.

- The Relationship between Economic and Social Rights with the MDG

In this third panel the experts from universities and NGOs discussed the relationship between economic and social rights and the MDG, access and diversity, the power of the media in shaping and influencing public opinion, the violation of fundamental human rights through media disinformation, the right of access to information in the legal system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the media and human rights education.

- Ethnic and Religious Minorities

The fifth and final panel dealt with subject such as the situation of ethnic minorities in Iran, Islam, citizens and the historical challenges of ethnic and religious minorities and positive discrimination in Islam and religious minorities rights in Iran.

Also during the duration of their stay the NGOs experts and Democracy and Human Rights Chair of Shahid Beheshti University experts held several meetings for the purpose of introduction to human rights sideline mechanisms, and also mutual understanding of relevant organizations with Iran's human rights capacities in the academic and nongovernmental fields. These meetings were arranged by the ODVV. The meetings included: meeting ICRC officials in their headquarters in Geneva the Middle East and Iran Section representatives of the Council, CONGO officials.





Participation in the 14th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 14th Session of the Human Rights Council was held in June 2010 at the UN headquarters in Geneva. Simultaneously with the participation in the Session the ODVV held the 11th NGOs in consultative status capacity building course with the participation of representatives from Institute for Protecting Social Victims, Institute for Women's Studies and Research, Iranian Women's Islamic Institute and the Iranian Elite Institute.

The ODVV presented 3 written statements (one of them joint with 170 international NGOs) on the human rights situation in Occupied Palestinian Territories, elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and education and peace. The ODVV and its accompanying NGOs also read 13 oral statements on elimination of racism and racial discrimination, human rights in Occupied Palestinian Territories, promotion and protection of human rights, Iraqi children, human rights situation in the west, UPR on Iran, Iraq, and Italy which was the result of the cooperation of participating Iranian NGOs in the 11th NGOs capacity building course. The ODVV also read joint statements with Al-Hakim Association and Interfaith International.

Participation in the 15th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 15th Session of the Human Rights Council was held in September 2010 at the UN headquarters in Geneva. As well as the regular 10 items of the Agenda, rapporteurs and UPR reporters presented

their reports. These included the special rapporteur on children in Armed Conflict, Modern forms of Slavery, Mercenaries Working Group, independent expert on International Solidarity, Human rights and Toxic Wastes, independent expert on clean drinking water, independent expert of the eradication of poverty, independent expert on Sudan, special rapporteur on indigenous peoples, special rapporteur on racism, special rapporteur on African tribes, special rapporteur on Cambodia, Burundi and Somalia. Just as in previous sessions the ODVV had active participation and presented 5 written and 9 oral statements and also distributed ODVV journals and brochures which reflected human rights developments in the nongovernmental sector. Meetings with the head of the Mercenaries Working Group, the hosting of sideline panels by the Friends of Justice Association, and holding two sideline panels on protection and compensation of the victims of human rights violations and terrorism were other activities of the ODVV.



Participation in IRCT Members Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark

This two day meeting was held on 9-10 October 2010 at the Danish Medical Association with the participation of IRCT members from different countries. The ODVV representative, representing the Middle East and North Africa Rehabilitation Centres for Torture Victims, participated in this meeting alongside two other members from the region. The IRCT is a decision making body made up of 26 members from different centres throughout the world and has 3 independent legal experts. The main objective of the Council is to set and monitor the implementation of its policies and facilitation of the activities of this global network. The members are elected per region, and thus the aim of the members of this Council is to monitor the application of laws and policies of the international network in their regions. Also the members must identify and discuss the challenges and successes of their own regions.

While introducing the IRCT strategy framework for 2010 till 2014, existing issues and challenges were also reviewed. The representatives of each region presented a draft of their regional strategies in order to reach a single global strategy. Also during this meeting various working groups



were formed. Following the conclusion of the two day meeting, on December 10 another sitting was held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the IRCT entitled: 25 Years of Torture Healing – Are We Ready to Assess Outcomes?

Participation in Middle East and North Africa Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (MENA) Sitting

This sitting was held through the efforts of the Khiam Rehabilitation Centre (Lebanon) and IRCT in 18-22 October 2010 in Beirut Lebanon. As members of MENA and IRCT, ODVV representatives also participated.

The aim of this sitting which was held in two parts was educational and consultative, was for the empowerment of protection of torture/violence victims centres in preparing and implementing relevant projects and also exchange of information and the preparation of the draft IRCT strategy (with concentration on MENA region), which follows in brief:

Improvement of the quality of provided services, improvement of report writing, transforming of experiences and views of the participants, organizing of communications and links with governmental and nongovernmental partners, best management of projects (quality and quantity) and review of the organizational structure of the centres, financial resources management, administrative affairs, management structures and also issues regarding the addressees (torture/violence victims).



On the final day of the sitting, the Council's strategy was discussed and reviewed and in the end the draft strategy was stressed by all the members. This draft shall be presented to the Copenhagen meeting of the IRCT for final approval. This sitting also brought about a good opportunity for the MENA region centres to exchange views.

Participation in the UPR Working Group Meeting, First UPR on the United States

The ninth UPR Working Group meeting in accordance to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 was held in Geneva on 1-12 of November 2010. The human rights situation of the United States was reviewed on the 5th of November. The American delegation presented their country report to the Council. The Council had briefed the Troika on the United States (Cameroon, France and Japan) earlier on 21 June. A number of questions were raised by Bolivia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States and were handed to the United States delegation by the United States Troika. During three hours of interactive dialogue the United States representative and fifty-six representatives from governments made speeches. The United States presented its report in bits over a period of almost an hour. It must be said that the output of the meeting will be reviewed under Item 6 of the Agenda of the 16th Session of the Council.

Raha Centre

With a wish to mend and end mankind's pains and sufferings, and expansion of humanitarian campaigns, the ODVV Rehabilitation Department provides advisory and educational services. For the protection of victims of domestic and social violence, the department presents counselling and therapy in legal, family, marriage, psychological disorders at the Rehabilitation Centre . With the cooperation of 40 mental health experts and lawyers the Centre provides pre-marriage, education and legal counselling. The statistics of the cases is determined on the basis of gender, age, occupation, marital status, education levels and the reason for coming to the Centre. The ODVV uses the results of the statistics to set appropriate programmes and projects. In 2010, 1810 cases benefited from the Centre's services. 987 of them were women and the rest were men. According to the statistics most of the cases were married and the majority of the problems were psychological disorders.

Statistics of Cases in the Centre

Chart 1
Cases based on gender

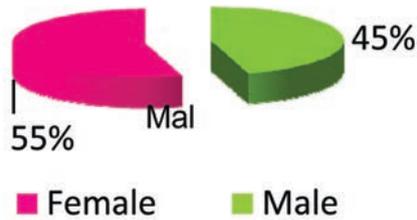


Chart 3
Diagnosis

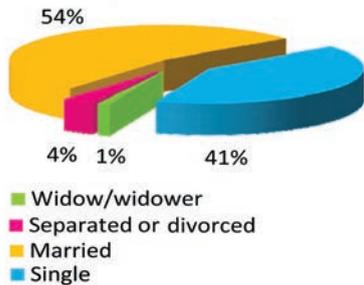


Chart 5
Cases based on services

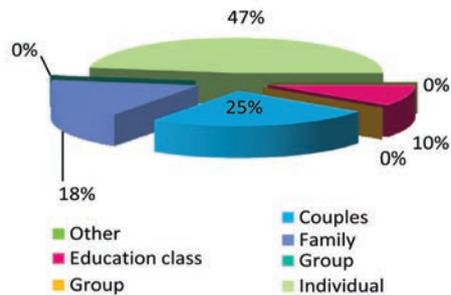


Chart 2
Cases based on occupation

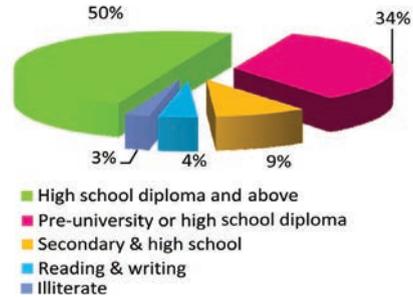


Chart 4
Cases based on education

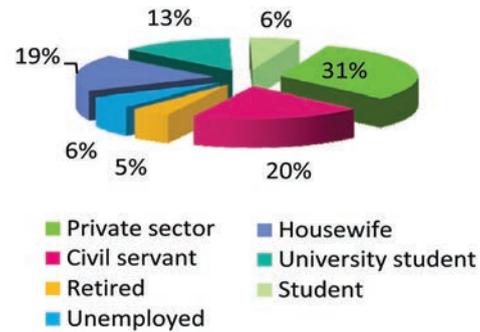
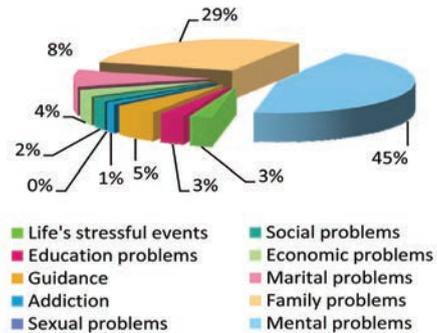


Chart 6
Cases based on marital status



Publications

In view of its objectives, activities and programmes, the ODVV has several publication activities. As a nongovernmental organization, these activities can be a positive international reflection for the ODVV of its activities and campaigns. For this purpose the Defenders Newsletter is published quarterly, as a human rights newsletter. The ODVV also publishes various informative and educational books and booklets on various subjects. The following is a brief description of ODVV's publications in 2010:

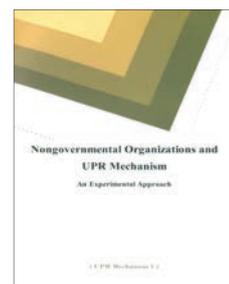
UPR bulletin

With the aim of determination and clear perspective on human rights situation in other countries and the UPR on Iran 2010, by presenting a clear picture of the human rights activities and situation in Iran, the ODVV has facilitated the effective and constructive empowerment of Iranian civil societies in presenting reports for the UPR on Iran. One of the activities that the ODVV has done in this regard is the publication of the UPR bulletin.

This publication is an attempt in reviewing the Human Rights Council and the UPR from their beginnings. The electronic version of this bulletin is available in the Farsi website of the ODVV.

NGOs and the UPR mechanism

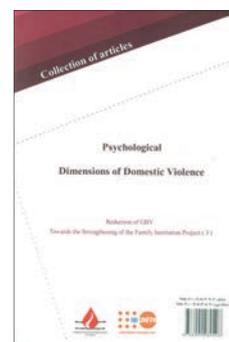
This is a 64-page book in English that has been published by the ODVV. The book is in four chapters of introduction of the UPR mechanism, NGOs and their role in the UPR, points and methods of presentation of the UPR, points to optimize the effectiveness of NGOs in the UPR mechanism.



Collective of articles on the psychological dimensions of domestic violence

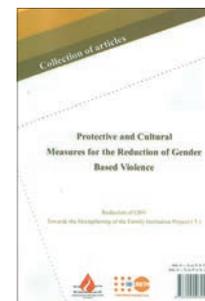
This collective was published by the ODVV within the framework of the Reduction of Gender Based Violence Project towards the Strengthening of the Family Institution in 200 pages.

With respect to the very important and undeniable role of women in the preservation and survival of the family institution (where children also are raised in) the necessity to pay attention to their rights and protection is undeniable. Therefore the improvement of women and children's conditions and solving their problems and issues if done through suitable methods and based on religious and ethnic patterns it is possible to accomplish great things for society. With this in mind as a member of the civil society, the ODVV began scientific and expertise researches on the subject of psychological dimensions of domestic violence (spouse abuse) all aspects of the violence against women phenomenon which are evident in developed and developing countries, to recognize the factors that threaten the family institution which is considered by the management of the country to provide noticeable help. This book has been made available for those interested in the subject.



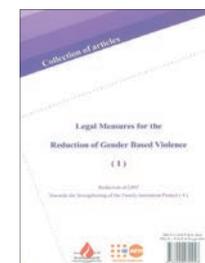
Collective of articles on the Cultural and Protective Measures for the Reduction of GBV

This collective was published by the ODVV within the framework of the Reduction of Gender Based Violence Project towards the Strengthening of the Family Institution in 144 pages. In each society various issues and phenomena appear which can have different economic, cultural, personal, and social repercussions. In the society subject, social problems can be pointed out which involves different individuals. Social problems in each society have particular diversity which can vary in different periods of time. Some of these problems that can be named are child abuse, spouse abuse, senior citizen abuse. This book deals with some social and cultural solutions to reduce these problems.



Collective of articles on the legal Measures for the Reduction of GBV

This collective was published by the ODVV within the framework of the Reduction of Gender Based Violence Project towards the Strengthening of the Family Institution in two volumes: first volume 128 pages and the second volume 160 pages. Due to particular physical and emotional conditions women and children are the most vulnerable groups of society and it is necessary that they get special care from society. Women and children's issues in the Islamic Republic of Iran have over various periods of time been noted by the legislator and have taken steps toward the protection of women and children in various laws. Legislation, amendment and or changing of the laws on women and children, recognition of their legal and social rights needs in various arenas, the determination and interpretation of Islam with regards to women and children's rights and research and provision of practical solutions to reach satisfactory conclusions are all important matters all of which will play a key role in the economic, social and cultural development. This book was published towards accessing this objective.



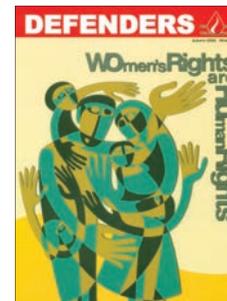
Abstract articles of the International Conference on Women's Rights in the Judicial Justice Process

This is a 96 page book from the abstract articles presented at the International Conference on Women's Rights to the Judicial Justice Process published in English by the ODVV. The 25 articles presented in this two day conference by domestic and international participating experts are published in this book as abstracts.



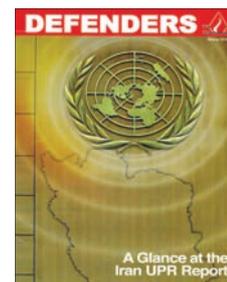
Defenders Autumn 2009-Winter 2010: Women's Rights are Human Rights

This issue was dedicated to women's rights and issues, was published in 36 pages. The articles included in this issue are: Measures for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls; Mother's rights towards her child in Iran's legal system and faced challenges; Police support for women victims of domestic violence; effective presence of NGOs in the 2010 Iran UPR and reports of ODVV conferences and meetings and the 10th and 11th Session of the Human Rights Council.



Defenders Spring 2010: A Glance at Iran's UPR Report

This issue which is 36 pages was a summary of the subjects of the UPR on Iran. Protection and improvement of human rights in Iran, challenges in the way of Iran's fulfilment of human rights, recommendations given to Iran, an analysis of the UPR process for Iran, and interviews with a number of experts are the subjects of this issue. There are two articles on the UPR process and NGOs and the UPR process on Iran.



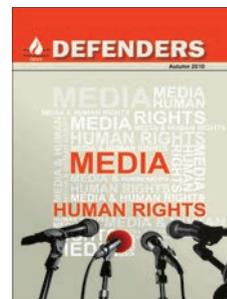
Defenders Summer 2010: War on Terror

The articles included in this issue are: Human Rights guarantees in the war on terror; Satellite Transnational Broadcasting in respect to incitement to violence: codes and norms; Comparative review of the final UPR report of the HRC and other countries: a practical perspective; report of the Women's Rights in the Judicial Justice Process-International Conference 20-21 December 2009; ODVV statement on the Zahedan terrorist attack; and human rights news and developments and ODVV publications.



Defenders Autumn 2010: Media and Human Rights

The articles included in this issue are: report of the ODVV commemoration of Human Rights Day; Iran's Media and Human Rights-Questions of Access and Diversity; Medias and Human Rights Education and Training; human rights news; ODVV activities and statements.



Statements

With attention to internal and external developments and situations, the ODVV releases statements on various issues:

- Written and oral statements for the 13th, 14th and 15th sessions of the Human Rights Council
- Statement on the Zahedan terrorist attacks
- Statement on the Defamation of the Holy Koran
- Statement on the Terrorist attacks on University Lecturers in Iran
- Statement on the Chabahar terrorist attack

Foreign Internship

For the purpose of promoting and gaining further experience in its research and education field, and also expanding links and interaction with students, the ODVV provides an opportunity for internal and external interns. To-date a number of students from other countries have spent internship periods at the ODVV over the last few years.

Links with Honorary Members

As part of the realisation of its objectives and its activities, depending on their field of expertise, the ODVV benefits from the cooperation of its honorary members. Interested parties in the field of human rights that include legal and private individuals can fill in the honorary membership application form either in person at the ODVV or the organization website: www.odvv.org.

After becoming members, the honorary members can benefit from the following facilities:

- Use of the ODVV library
- Access to reports and researches available
- Access to the internet, website and subscription to electronic newsletters (English and farsi)
- Benefit from ODVV publications and links
- Participation in meetings, conferences, seminars, sittings and education courses



Information Dissemination

Information dissemination is among the activities of the Public Relations Department, which is part of the ODVV general objectives. The ODVV uses the following applications and tools to fulfil the aforementioned goals:

- The Internet

The worldwide web or the internet is one of the most important communications and links medium to reach an audience or a target group. By benefiting from two E-newsletters (Farsi and English), and the International Relations Emailing system, and a website, the ODVV has been able to communicate and establish links in order to provide and receive the latest human rights news and developments across the world, and also to provide information on the ODVV's objectives, activities and future programmes.

Interested parties can visit the ODVV website for updated information www.odvv.org



- Links With the Media

Establishing links with the mass media, the press and national and international news agencies is one of the effective activities of the Public Relations Department. In view of this the Public Relations Department has placed the following in its agenda:

- Reflection of ODVV activities in the mass media, press and news agencies
- Publishing of various workgroups articles in the press
- Hold interviews for the purpose of publicising ODVV objectives and activities reports
- Releasing statements on various national and international developments and occasions and their reflections in the press

To-date the ODVV Public Relations has managed to get a good reflection of the organization's activities and events within the press and news agencies, and established good links with these groups, and new materials are released to the media approximately every two weeks.

Library

The ODVV is equipped with a specialist library which contains 1898 books in Farsi and 2276 books in English on various human rights issues and subjects. Honorary members, students and researchers can access books from the library as well as documents and reports of the ODVV.





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