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## Human Right Developments in Iran

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**ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

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**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- Refugees Rights

### 1-1 Generalities of the Draft Legislation on Citizenship of Children Born to Iranian Mothers and Foreign Fathers was Approved in the Parliament

In its 13 May 2019 sitting, the majority of members of the Islamic Parliament voted for the Amendment of the Determination of the Citizenship of Children of Iranian Women Married to Non-Iranian Men Act, and this Act was submitted to the Guardian Council for review. Following its review on 1 June, the Guardian Council approved its generalities. Although, according to the spokesman for the Council, the details of the draft legislation with regards to criminal justice and security concerns, raised by the members of the Council requires a review and removal of ambiguities by the Parliament.

The draft which was approved by the Parliament in Hassan Rouhani's administration has been prepared for

the amendment of article 976 of the Iranian Civil Code. According to the article, Iranian citizenship is attainable only from the father being an Iranian citizen.

In the event of final approval of the Guardian Council this amendment determines that “children from Iranian women married to non-Iranian men, who have been born before or after the adoption of this Act, can become Iranian citizens, at the request of their mothers, before reaching the age of eighteen.”

Also, according to the Draft legislation “After the age of 18 the children, can apply for Iranian citizenship, if their mothers had not requested previously and they will become Iranian citizens as long as they do not have security issues. The security clearance must be done within three months, and the police authority is duty bound to take necessary steps for the issuance of residency permit for the non-Iranian father”.

According to one of the clauses of this draft “stateless individuals” who are born in Iran or at least one of their parents were born in Iran, can request Iranian citizenship after the age of 18. On the condition of not having any criminal records or security problems, Iranian citizenship can be granted to them.

In the legislative system of Iran, all Parliament’s adoptions must be approved by the Guardian Council before becoming the law. At the moment, the Guardian Council has returned the Draft to the Parliament for further revisions.



# Right to Education

## 2- Right to Education

### 2-1 Eradication of Abuse and Bullying from Primary Schools in the New School Year

The eradication of abuse and bullying from primary schools programme will be implemented from the next school year. In this programme, the proposal is eradication of abuse and bullying by everyone including students, teachers, school heads and parents are among the groups who must receive necessary trainings.

According to reviews, implementation of this programme is necessary and families must recognise the hidden signs of abuse that might be committed by themselves or others against the children. School teachers and heads too must receive necessary training. The Iranian Education and Training Department intends to go further than the limited definition of violence (which usually is limited to physical violence) and through provision of necessary training, reduce abuse and bullying of children. To this aim, the

Ministry is planning to empowerment of students, parents and school staff to prevent wrong behaviours and various forms of nonphysical abuse such as accosting, bullying, making fun, labelling, comparing and making students hopeless.



## **3- Human Rights**

### **3-1 Sex Change Operations Covered by Insurance**

According to the country's Welfare Organization there are 10 to 12 thousand transgenders in Iran.

Some of the important problems of these individuals is the insurance coverage for the sex change operation. The problem was classification of these surgeries as plastic surgery by insurance services. But recently, the opportunity has been brought about for these individuals to get medical insurance coverage and benefit from the services. Also, these types of patients can receive psychological services like others covered by insurance.

### **3-2 Support for Prisoners' Families**

According to comments made by the director of the National Prisons' Organization, currently there are more than 63 thousand prisoners' families who are receiving various forms of support. Towards support for these



individuals and with the help of charities, technical and professional training is offered to them, so that while increasing their income and livelihood levels, their self-reliance and also dignity is promoted. To this aim a website is created that provides fair support for all families.

### **3-3 55000 Billion Rials Spent on Job Creation for Charity Cases**

In 2018, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation as a support centre, managed to create 148 thousand job opportunities in the country for patients and those in need, out of which 136 thousand were steady jobs.

Last year, 460 thousand job opportunities should have been created in the country a third of which were created by the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation. More concentration was made for jobs in deprived regions and also women and vulnerable people

Last year in the Aid Committee's job creation programme 55000 billion Rials has been allocated to families of the deprived which is more than the benefits that all families under cover receive. This programme will continue in the current year and it is estimated that 200 thousand job opportunities will be created for vulnerable individuals this year.

### **3-4 Treatment of 15 Thousand Drug Addicts in Tehran**

Diversity of illegal drugs has increased the number of addicts calling for national and international support more than before. According to UN report in 2013 there were around 350 types of industrial dugs, whereas in 2018 around 803 new types have been identified.

According to the head of the Drug Control Headquarters of Tehran Province, last year around 50 tons of drugs were discovered in Tehran.

Due to this problem and rise in number of drug addicts, the government, with the help of other organizations, has placed the sheltering and treatment of these addicts in its working agenda. On this basis to-date in Tehran Province alone nearly 15,000 substance abusers in public have been rounded up for treatment.



## **4-Children's Rights**

### **4-1 650 Care Centres for Unaccompanied Minors Nationwide**

Across the country, about 56 percent of child labourers and street children are non-Iranians and in Tehran more than 85 percent of these children are foreigners. Therefore, 650 centres are working for unaccompanied minors, which have been reorganized to provide better services and encourage further participation of people, charities and NGOs. These centres provide free of charge services to all children without any discrimination based on nationality.

### **4-2 Implementation of HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme for Children and Juveniles**

The director of Prevention and Combatting Diseases Department of Medical Sciences University of Iran announced the implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention

programme for children and juveniles. In this regard, in the region under cover of the Medical Sciences University 10 counselling centres for behavioural diseases are working to help children, juveniles and their parents.

In addition to providing counselling services to children and juveniles, these centres will refer cases to treatment centres. The general public are also covered by the programme and receive information and training.



## **5-Introducing Human Rights Institutions**

### **Iranian Life Quality Improvement Association (ILIA)**

ILIA is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political institute launched in 2006 with the aim of improvement of standards of living of children in need of special support, in Tehran and Alburz Provinces. ILIA bases its activities on community based methods in the areas of education, health, social support and field and quality research.

Literacy education, life skills training and holding technical workshops on children are among the most important activities of the Institute. The Institute budget is donated by individuals and is earned by holding technical workshops.

Since ILIA has more than 1000 child labourers and deprived children under its coverage, and the Institute's services reaches the families of these children, it can be said that with the assumption of households made up of

six individuals, on average ILIA Institute is working with a population of more than 2400 individuals.

Some of the supports that ILIA provides with a concentration on children include:

- Offering a place where more than 400 children can get support, care, health and education services.
- Organizing and implementing cultural activities for the children's reintegration into society.
- Holding training workshops for the people who volunteer to work for children.
- Empowerment of families through implementation of education workshops for strengthening family communications and understanding, children's rights etc.
- Vaccination against hepatitis for all ILIA children.
- Health and hygiene education and distribution of hygiene packs that include toothbrushes and bastes, soap and towels.
- Distribution of warm food on a daily basis.
- Referring addict parents to treatment centres.
- Paying home visits to recognize children and their families' needs.
- Holding employment and empowerment courses for women and girls heads of household to prevent child labour.

- Supporting more than 850 children and offering education services to them.

To this aim, the Institute, which also is in special consultative status to ECOSOC, has implemented various projects with UN agencies as well as national and international organizations.