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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.

# Contents

<b>1- Rights of Individuals with Disabilities .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1-1 Extension of Services Provided for Individuals with Disabilities by the State Welfare Organization.....	4
1-2 15,000 Individuals with Disabilities Find Employment Opportunities.....	5
<b>2- Women’s Rights .....</b>	<b>6</b>
2-1 The Foster care of 130 Children Given to Single Girls...	6
2-2 Creation of 10,000 Jobs for Women Heads of Household	
<b>3- Children’s Rights.....</b>	<b>8</b>
3-1 Drafting a New Legislation for Combating Child Marriages.....	8
<b>4- Human Rights in General .....</b>	<b>9</b>
4-1 Adoption and Implementation of the Reduction of Number of Prisoners Plan .....	9
4-2 Raising Literacy Levels in the Country.....	10
4-3 Registration of 900 Thousand Individuals in Health Insurance Plan .....	11
<b>5- Introducing Human Rights Organizations.....</b>	<b>13</b>
5-1 KIYANA Cultural and Social Group.....	13



## **1- Rights of Individuals with Disabilities**

### **1-1 Extension of Services Provided for Individuals with Disabilities by the State Welfare Organization**

Since March 2019, the National Welfare Organization, in cooperation with governmental and nongovernmental bodies, has noticeably expanded its services to individuals with disabilities, some of which are as follows:

- Providing 9,650 housing units to individuals with disabilities since March 2019.
- Providing 7,800 housing units to households with at least two disabled members.
- Getting Red Crescent's approval to pay 117,500,000,000 Rials to victims of floods and first payment of 46,000,000,000 Rials into their accounts.
- Crediting 100000000000 Rials of targeted subsidies by the State Welfare Organization for for the provision of housing of flood victims.

## **1-2 15,000 Individuals with Disabilities Find Employment Opportunities**

Towards the protection of the rights of individuals with disabilities, and improvement of their livelihood and self-reliance, 15,000 individuals with disabilities received 500 million Rials loans from the State Welfare Organization to set up their own businesses.

In addition to, these women heads of household, senior citizens, former addicts, women victims of social harms and households who have twins, triplets or more, also benefit from the aforementioned facilities.

The total number of State Welfare Organization's job creation promise is 53,506 for the target community, 30 thousand of which were realised in 2019, fifty percent of these individuals having disabilities and the rest are those who are amongst other SWO disability criteria.

It must be said that in view of the law for executive bodies' employment of at least 3 percent of vacancies with the disabled people which began last year, this year around 130 individuals passed the entrance tests for employment, and the Ministry of Education had the most recruits from the disabled community.

# WOMEN'S RIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS

## 2- Women's Rights

### 2-1 The Foster care of 130 Children Given to Single Girls

Towards the protection of women's rights in the country, in 2013 and following the Islamic Parliament's approval, the opportunity for single girls to foster children was brought about. To this aim, in the past year nearly 2,000 children were given to families for foster care or temporary care.

Also last year 160 children with incurable diseases were fostered to families and in total 10 thousand children are kept in orphanage centres of the State Welfare Organisation. According to the Protection of Children and Juveniles with bad or without Guardians Act (2013), childless married men and women, single women and girls, and married men and women with children can

request to foster. In this regard, single women and girls who are interested in fostering children, provided that according to the law they have the ability to take care of a child, the law facilitates it for them to foster children. According to this law last December the care of 130 children was given to single women and girls.

## **2-2 Creation of 10,000 Jobs for Women Heads of Household**

From March 2019 to-date, Barakat Foundation has created 3,250 employment plans under *Sahab* Community-Based Model (Barakat Employment Support Investment) for women heads of household in deprived and rural regions, which has created 10,000 jobs.

Towards the economic empowerment of women heads of household, this Foundation has in its working agenda, teaching entrepreneurship skills to these women in the deprived regions of 28 provinces. In the Community-Based Employment Plans, the Barakat Foundation supports women who have enough capacities and skills for jobs, and even presents them with entrepreneurship plans.



### **3- Children's Rights**

#### **3-1 Drafting a New Legislation for Combating Child Marriages**

Towards the protection of children's rights a new draft legislation for combating child marriages has been prepared by the government and approved. This draft which sets the minimum age of marriage for girls at 13 and boys at 15, was approved with the support of the Government Draft Legislation Sub-Committee members.

In order to draw the approval of the sub-committee and with the aim of protection of all children against child and forced marriages, while amending the text of the initial draft, the President's Women and Family Deputy set the minimum age of marriage for girls at 13 and boys at 15. In other words with the final approval of the bill in parliament, marriages for girls under 13 and boys under 15 was prohibited.





## **4- Human Rights in General**

### **4-1 Adoption and Implementation of the Reduction of Number of Prisoners Plan**

With the approval of the 18 articulated plan for reduction of discretionary punishment sentences by the Islamic Parliament, this plan has begun comprehensively and has resulted in the release of a noticeable number of prisoners.

In the aforementioned plan, as well as the reduction of some discretionary punishment sentences (Punishments not mentioned in the Sharia), the changing of these sentences have also been considered. In this regard the turning of the “non-prescribed life sentence” to “first degree sentence” is one of the key accomplishments of this plan. According to article 3 of this plan the term “imprisonment for over 25 years” has been amended to “imprisonment of 25 to 30 years”. Furthermore according

to the additional clause 6 of this article “all non-prescribed life sentences in law have changed to first degree sentences.”

Article 6 of the plan has added a clause to article 47 of the Islamic Penal Code (2013), according to which those crimes that are committed against the national and international security of the country, in the event of the effective cooperation of the offender in uncovering crime and identification of other offenders, the offender’s punishment is suspended.

Furthermore, reduction of the punishments of “first time drug offenders” through the addition of a clause to article 3 of the previous law, the punishment is halved for first time offence. In this plan with the amendment of article 62 of the Islamic Penal Code (2013), electronic monitoring will be implemented in discretionary sentences. With the amendment of this article, depending on the type of crime, after spending a fifth of the sentence, the court can release the offender with an electronic tag, and this period is deemed as part of the offenders’ sentence period.

## **4-2 Raising Literacy Levels in the Country**

By allocating 55 percent of literacy education activities to the rural regions, the Literacy Movement Organization (LMO) in the past 40 years has helped raise literacy levels in villages, and the difference in the literacy levels of villagers and city dwellers has completely been eradicated.

Today, the number of those left behind from basic education has reached 2 percent through the implementation of this programme. With regards to the literacy education of illiterate parents, the Literacy Movement Organization with the cooperation of schools has implemented a comprehensive programme. From 2014 to-date nearly 500,000 families have been covered by this programme and become literate. Even local learning centres have launched literacy education for those who are unable to commute from their places of work or homes.

Along the same lines, refugees and migrants also have benefited from the literacy education programme. According to this programme to-date 811,000 foreign nationals have been able to be covered by the literacy education programme. The Literacy Movement Organization is in close partnership with the UN agencies and other international organizations for creation of literacy education opportunities for all groups.

### **4-3 Registration of 900 Thousand Individuals in Health Insurance Plan**

The mandatory health insurance plan has become implemented since 4 November 2019, and the first stage results show that 900 thousand persons are registered in this plan. Individuals without any insurance coverage are asked to register in the Health Insurance Plan website. This action is towards protection of individuals who do not have any form of insurance and with the governmental

supports given they can use services and facilities that have been considered for them.



## 5- Introducing Human Rights Organizations

### 5-1 KIYANA Cultural and Social Group

The KIYANA Cultural and Social Group was founded with the aim of raising the educational and cultural levels of child labourers and street children as well as empowerment of these children and women heads of household based on executive guidelines of the founding of non-governmental organizations.

Initially KIYANA Cultural and Social Group received its permit in January 2004 from Karaj governorate (Alborz Province) to start work in this city and its suburbs, and thereafter following the expansion of its activities in 2008 it acquired a permit from Tehran Province's State Welfare Organization. Then after successful implementation of a tripartite activities with the Interior Ministry and UNICEF in Iran in 2009, this Group was granted annual permit for

working with foreign nationals from NGO committee of Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA). In this 15-year period this association has utilised the full support of volunteer youths and human forces and has taken positive steps towards the Group's activities.

Alongside the utilisation of volunteer human force and Group members, part of the activities of the Group are conducted by obligated staff so that the designed projects are implemented in their time span and with good quality in provision of offering service to target community.

In addition to the implemented tripartite projects with UNICEF and BAFIA, in the last few years KIYANA has conducted various livelihood activities under tripartite agreement with UNHCR and BAFIA towards the empowerment of Afghan refugees in Iran.

For further information, please visit KIYANA website

<http://www.kiyanango.ir/>

