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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 Participation and Sympathy of the Afghan Refugees' Community in Iran in Production of Masks and Hospital Products, Response to COVID-19

With the spread of COVID-19 in Iran, the refugee's community's civil society, religious, sports and economic activists have come forward and side by side with the Iranian society are producing masks and hospital gowns.

In this regard, the Iranian government has facilitated the administrative situation for the entry of these groups into the country's economy. The outbreak of COVID-19 which resulted in many producing jobs that include sewing to come to a halt, created an opportunity for the refugees, which following construction work they have a large participation in the sewing industry, to be able to while supporting the host society, to also improve their livelihood situations under the circumstances.

Currently there are various workshops throughout Iran which are run by the refugees or with their partnership,

producing face masks and hospital gowns. This has resulted in the empowerment of these individuals as well as alongside governmental and nongovernmental organizations held their fellow Afghans who have livelihood problems.

## **1-2 Issuing of the Determination of the Citizenship of Children Born to Iranian Women Married to Foreign Men Executive Guidelines**

The President's First Deputy sent "the Determination of the Citizenship of Children Born to Iranian Women Married to Foreign Men Executive Guidelines" to the Interior, Information, and Foreign Ministries as well as the President's legal deputy. It must be said that on 24 September 2019 the Amendment of Determination of Citizenship of Children Born to Iranian Women Married to Foreign Men Act was adopted and following this the government cabinet on 20 May 2020 in the implementation of this Act, adopted the Executive Guidelines on Granting Citizenship to Individuals included in the Law and on 2 June 2020 memo-ed it to relevant bodies.

Some of the notable points of the Guidelines are as follows:

- According to these guidelines there will be two applicants will exist for each Iranian citizenship: any Iranian woman who has married a foreign man and as a

result has a child under 18 can request citizenship for her children, of course any person born to Iranian women and foreign men and is above 18 can apply for citizenship.

- before this according to the Civil Code (adopted in 1934-35) individuals born to Iranian women married to foreign men could only apply for citizenship upon reaching the age of 18. This has resulted in these individuals to remain undocumented till the age of 18.

- According to article 6 of these Guidelines the issuing of residency permits for non-Iranian father the individual included in the law in the event of not being a security risk, conditional to confirmation and declaration of the child's Iranian citizenship and written request for residency in Iran, will be applied in accordance with the law.



## **2- Education Rights**

### **2-1 Education of 152,000 Children with Special Needs**

National Special Needs Education Organization (SNEO) is a subordinate organization to the Ministry of Education, and is responsible to provide educational, rehabilitative, identification and counseling services to the public particularly to pre-primary, primary and secondary students of special needs.

SNEO has 152,000 students under cover which compared to the past is increased 17 times, and integrated programmes increased by 82 times.

Currently there are 1600 special schools in the country for specific needs and the education space is 10 meters although the standard space should be 28 meters, and there is still some way to go to reach the international standard.

Last year 97.6 percent new special needs students were covered and in the current year this figure has reached to nearly 99 percent.

Furthermore, the development of technical and professional trainings has been put in the working agenda of special schools and currently 158 technical and professional courses are being taught in these schools.

Some of the programmes which are under way in the current year for children and juveniles in special schools include adjustment or publication of 128 textbooks, 8 percent increase in preschool coverage, launching of 16 counseling and guidance centres and 6 percent increase in the adjustment programme and other programmes.



### 3- Right to Health



#### 3-1 Free Treatment of Junkies and Homeless Individuals Infected with COVID-19

Towards provision of free medical care services to those infected with COVID-19, in some hospitals special free medical services are provided to junkies and homeless individuals. Tehran's Shohadaye Gomnam Hospital, from the outset of the virus outbreak in the early days started taking in patients who in ordinary situations may not have much access to medical services. More hospitals are taking in more of these individuals.



## **4- Women's Rights**

### **4-1 The generalities of the Promotion of Women and Families' Conditions Document Adopted**

This document has been compiled towards the promotion of women and families' conditions and with the aim of identifying and evaluating women's existing conditions and presentation of expert solutions for the elimination of shortfalls and strengthening women's capacities with a five-year perspective.

According to this document all executive departments are obliged to make plans towards the promotion of women's status.

The most important problem in the promotion of women's conditions is studying social harms to women, such as divorce, poverty, education problems, health and hygiene and spouse abuse and violence against women.

These letters of understanding in prevention of social harms and towards control and reduction of social corruption, control and reduction of addiction, symbol design, reduction of moral corruptions and promotion of planning skills and empowerment of families, education of prisoners' spouses and children, sending cash to marginalized regions, reduction and control of moral corruptions, and prevention of suicides and divorces.

Following the implementation of this programme, the Cooperative, Employment and Social Welfare and the Agriculture Ministries created a cooperative to increase the abilities of women heads of household and this year 10 billion Rials have been allocated for this province.

Also currently women have 21 percent of managerial posts which according to forecasts will reach 31 percent. Currently women make up 40 percent of the civil service force which shows the government's attention towards the role and status of women.

#### **4-2 Review of the Adoption of the Provision of Safety to Women Bill**

In view of the murder of a girl by her father in one of the northern owns, government officials and many civil society and human rights organizations stressed on the speeding up process of the adoption of the Provision of Safety to Women Bill. The main aim of this bill is observation of women's dignity and provision of security

to them against violence which a while ago was sent to the government by the Judiciary Branch after some changes to it, and to put in the working agenda out of waiting list.

This 77 articulated bill stresses on prohibition of transactional marriages and “*khoon bas*”, women heads of household having equal “*Diah*” (Blood Money) as men, prohibition on threatening women and forcing them to do undignified things, and prioritization of women prisoners doing time for non-intentional crimes for their release.

#### **4-3 16 Million Surgical Masks Produced in Women Heads of Household Workshops**

The Women and Families Offices in provincial governments across the country in the middle of the COVID-19 crisis in cooperation and partnership with executive departments and women and families’ NGOs have launched workshops for sewing surgical masks and hospital gowns which in this regard jobs have been created for 7700 women in 1606 production workshops which produced 16 million masks, gowns and gloves.

To this aim with the help of support organizations such as the Welfare Organization, and Imam Khomeini Charity Foundation and charitable individuals, 425 thousand women heads of household were identified and they were provided with assistance. Also the Women and Families Offices of provincial governments through drawing the participation of relevant departments and bodies in

counselling matters, facilitated the provision of free counselling to 220 thousand people.

While drawing the cooperation of NGOs active in women, family and children's affairs, these Offices facilitated the uniting and partnership of 1820 NGOs active in women, family and children's matters in the fight against COVID-19.



## **5- Human Rights**

### **5-1 Issuance of the Defending Citizen's Rights Circular**

The Judiciary Branch sent a circular in support of Citizen's Rights and observation of these rights. This is a circular which has been issued in support of people's rights.

With the issuing of this circular the cases must be implemented publically, and no courts can issue an order which results in the denial of individuals under investigation outside the country from getting consular services from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **5-2 15 Percent Rise in Pensions for Families Covered by Imam Khomeini Charity Foundation**

In view of the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country, many measures have been taken to support those that are

in need, particularly by the Imam Khomeini Charity Foundation.

One of the important measures which took place was “*Et-am Mahdavi*” which started with 313 kitchens and currently it has reached to 1700 kitchens which in one month distributed 6.665 million hot foods to those in need.

Currently 75 thousand volunteers are working in over 1700 kitchens and in this regard various governmental departments and NGOs are participating in support.

For deprived regions food packs have been considered which to-date more than 1.390 food packs each valued at 2 million Rials have been distributed. To this aim 3.500 million food packs too the Revolutionary Guard Corps, more than one million food packs the Executive Bureau of Imam’s Order, 700 thousand packs by *Astan Quds Razavi*<sup>1</sup>, 250 thousand food packs by Red Crescent Society, 70 thousand Imam Reza Jahandi Heqdquarters have been distributed among those in need.

It must be said that to-date 1.543 families are under the support of Aid Committee and towards Clause 14 625 thousand families are also supported by the Aid Committee, which from May this year, their benefits increased by 15 percent.

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<sup>1</sup> Astan Quds Razavi is a foundation based in Mashhad, Iran. It is the administrative organization which manages the Imam Reza shrine and various institutions which belong to the organization.

From 2019 all those supported by the Aid Committee are covered by the Health Insurance Organization, and Insurance booklets have been issued for them.





## **6- Introducing Human Rights Organizations**

### **6-1 Chain of Hope Institute**

Chain of Hope Institute as an international institution began its activities in July 2007. This Institute presents its medical services with the lowest of costs to children under 18 without consideration of religion, race and nationality and in accordance with international standards in three specialist fields of heart, orthopedic and recovery. Chain of Hope is not just a Charitable Institute for treatment of children, with the entry of international teams and the cooperation of experienced domestic specialist doctors for creation of satisfactory quality treatment, holds short and long-term education courses and also is the first Charitable Institute that within its team of experts has Iranian and French doctors. To-date 127 French teams have travelled to Iran on medical missions and treatment,

scientific and educational interactions. Also more than 130 doctors have travelled to France to take part in the short-term courses and 3 for the long-term courses with the help of the French Embassy in Iran and France's Chain of Hope financial assistance. One of the important factors in the activities of the Institute is the notable reduction in treatment costs with the highest quality treatment.

From the start of Chain of Hope's activities to-date more than 13300 children with orthopedic, heart and recovery problems have had surgeries done by the Institute all across the country. According to patient case files the Institute has had patients from all 33 Iranian provinces throughout its years of activity.

The activities of the Institute fall under three main categories:

- Treatment activities for treatment of children,
- Structural activities to reach specialist standards in pediatrics,
- Medical training activities to raise quality in pediatrics specialist fields.

It must be said that the activities of Chain of Hope takes place alongside the extensive scientific activities of La Chaîne de L'espoir of France.

For further information regarding the Institute and its activities you can visit the following website:

<http://zanjirehomid.com/en>