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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 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- Women’s Rights</b> .....	4
1-1 Release of women prisoners with misdemeanor crimes .....	4
1-2 100 percent increase in provision of services to homeless women .....	5
1-3 Creation of opportunity to visit women’s prisons in Tehran province/interview prisoners including Nasrine Sotoodeh and Kilie Moore Gilbert.....	6
<b>2- Refugees Rights</b> .....	7
2-1 Improvement of refugee children’s access to cyber education system.....	7
<b>3- Human Rights</b> .....	9
3-1 Presentation of methods for the improvement of human rights.....	9
3-2 Assistance for employment and promotion of livelihood for prisoners released due to COVID-19.....	11
3-3 Launch of a system to support persons in need, with the participation of more than 2000 NGOs and Charity Organizations.....	11
<b>4- Introducing Human Rights Organizations</b> .....	13
4-1 Iranian Autism Charity Association.....	13



## **1- Women's Rights**

### **1-1 Release of women prisoners with misdemeanor crimes**

With the combined efforts of charitable and relevant officials 125 women prisoners out of 3,809 misdemeanor prisoners were release earlier this year and returned to their families. This took place with fundraising events and popular dynamism, and till September 3,684 male prisoners and 125 female prisoners were released with popular supports.

Currently there are still 197 women with misdemeanor crimes still in incarceration eligible for release in the country's prisons, which hopefully with the help of NGOs and people and cooperation of authorities for them to be released.

To this aim the Women and Family Affairs Deputy to the presidency through holding the fifth round of dynamism and with the “Prisons are Not a Place for Mothers” invite fellow citizens to support these releases.

## **1-2 100 percent increase in provision of services to homeless women**

From last year to-date Tehran Municipality’s infrastructures for provision of services to homeless women has had a 100 percent increase and there’s been a 40 percent increase in beds. With making the services round the clock in Tehran shelters we have seen an addition of 30 percent in homeless women throughout the day in these shelters, which in itself help in reduction of damages. Tehran has 4 shelters and one home with a capacity of 400 beds for homeless women which provide services round the clock.

Last year more than 490thousand individuals were given shelter at night for homeless men and women in these shelters which approximately 50thousaand were women and 440thousand men.

## **1-3 Creation of opportunity to visit women's prisons in Tehran province/interview prisoners including Nasrine Sotoodeh and Kilie Moore Gilbert**

The National Prisons' Organization has facilitated the opportunity for visit to prisons and interview prisoners to ensure the observation of their rights for domestic human rights organizations.

To this aim the secretary of the Judiciary of the I.R of Iran, High Council for Human Rights visited women's prison in Tehran province. Also the opportunity for quick and direct transfer of views and recommendations of the prisoners has been facilitated. The Director the Prisons' Organization announced that from that day action will be taken to solve problems so that no prisoner will suffer from anything than being in prison. Stressing on women are victims of social damages than the perpetrators, the secretary of the Human Rights Department reassured that the inherent nature requires that prison must not be the first choice for their punishment who are the most effective factors in nurturing and guarding the mental and physical health of the family and society.

In this visit which took place on 23 October, the director of Prison's Organization and secretary the Human Rights Department met many prisoners which included Nasrin Sotoodeh and Kylie Moore Gilbert (foreign national) having face to face talks and heard this individuals and issued orders for the fulfilment of some of their demands.



## **2- Refugees Rights**

### **2-1 Improvement of refugee children's access to cyber education system**

In view of the outbreak of COVID-19 in our country and students not being able to attend schools, the Ministry of Education has tried to while creating necessary mechanism and the students being able to benefit has provided the necessary tools. Thus in spite of all existing problems for refugees in the country they have not been neglected and towards fair education, assistance has been provided to them with the help of UN Agencies in Iran that include UNICEF and UNHCR.

The Education and Training Department in Iran has tried to facilitate all from benefiting from education regardless

of gender and also including refugees. Iran's rating is 18 out of 20 because there is no visible difference between boys and girls registering in schools. In university entry exams girls' attendance is at 55 percent and boys at 45 percent.

Although the Education and Training Department in provision of its services has faced some challenges but it has tried to during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide education including in attendance and television and education via the Shad software, and also distribution of education packs in deprived regions, refugee settlements, low populated villages so that none of the 15 million students are not left out of education.

It must be said that 500thousand foreign nationals that include refugees and asylum-seekers and even undocumented immigrants are studying in schools in Iran. Towards their better enjoyment of the education methods through the assistance of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) more than 30thousand different tools have been given to refugees and asylum-seekers. But in view of the large number of students there is still a need for more international assistance.





### 3- Human Right

#### 3-1 Presentation of methods for the improvement of human rights

For the promotion of human rights conditions, the Judiciary's Research Centre is supporting university theses which are towards the improvement of human rights in the country. Also, the research center is considering to expand its cooperation with the Human Rights Department so that through cooperation and colloquium to improve human rights conditions. And it can draw cooperation of the Human Rights Department in extracting human rights discussions and important priorities and guide these theses.

The Judiciary's Research Center for further cooperation and interaction with the Human Rights Department will cooperate with this Department in categorization, dialogue making and networking.

With regards to networking education courses for university students and even religious students will be set up so that they are introduced to human rights concepts. Also, towards dialogue making, actions such as publication of quarterlies and scientific and research magazines have been placed in the working agenda of the research center.

To this aim the secretary of the Human Rights Department has called for the formation of the Iranian Human Rights Development Organization so that through this to be able to provide answers to human rights ambiguities. Also he stressed on the appointment of a domestic rapporteur on human rights. He said that we intend to set up such a body in order to resolve various human rights issues inside the country alongside presented evidence and documents so that we can give these reports to the people.

In the human rights document sitting with the Judiciary Branch research center also cooperation in giving scientific answers to human rights reports was stressed.

### **3-2 Assistance for employment and promotion of livelihood situation of prisoners released due to COVID-19**

The National Prisons' Organization while supporting the release of prisoners during the COVID-19 outbreak has also provided extended services for the improvement of released prisoners' livelihood. To this aim according to published official figures the employment of prisoners in 2019 was 15 percent which through thought out decisions these figures increased to 22 percent in the current year. The significance is that this growth has taken place without creation of new capacities and by the use of existing capacities under the difficult COVID-19 conditions where prisoners are on leave.

### **3-3 Launch of a system to support persons in need with the participation of more than 2000 NGOs and Charity Organizations**

The first nucleus of this website was formed in 2014 with the aim of helping those in need, but in 2018 with the addition of various charities this website speeded up. The aim of this website is the organization of assistance to people in need and also easing of access to social workers and cases to each other. Currently 2,028 charity institutes all of which have permits are members in this website and while creating a transparent basis they take big steps towards the fulfillment of needs of individuals.

Another part of this website is to do with the people and charitable individuals which these people might be capable, such as a dentist raises his capability for treating individuals in need, or they could be ordinary citizens who donate money. The money sent to this website can quickly be transferred to charities accounts so that individuals in need can benefit. Individuals can in their user profile clearly see that the money they have deposited has gone for what need and or what project it has been spent on.

The main objective of the creation of this website is for the creation of a basis for the removal of parallel work in charity affairs.

Currently in this website there are 37,013 beneficiaries who regularly receive assistance from member charities.



## 4 -Introducing Human Rights Activists

### 4-1 Iran Autism Association

Iran Autism Association is a nongovernment, nonprofit, education, support and rehabilitation for autism disorder in Iran which was founded in 2013 with the aim of raising the living quality of individuals with autism and their families, by a group of interested individuals, experts and charitable families of the children through official national permit issued by the Interior Ministry and Health Ministry.

Key activities of this Association:

- Empowerment of parents and teaching them
- Increase the knowledge and awareness of society.
- Early diagnosis and rehabilitation of children with autism

## Mission Statement

Through benefiting from up-to-date world knowledge and the participation principles, honesty, transparency, the Iran Autism Association through presentation of education, counselling, profession learning, research, rehabilitation, supportive, talent finding services, and suitable information dissemination to society, the Association's aim is by facilitation of suitable conditions, acceptance, support and delivering individuals with autism to their real status in society, and also facilitation of welfare, happiness and their independence to work for them.

## Perspective:

The perspective of the Association for 2026 is that all individuals of society recognize the autism disorder and treatment and rehabilitation methods and individuals with autism and their families to live in a society that loves individuals with autism without judgement, in a society where suitable cultural foundations are set. Individuals with autism and their families receive extensive standard services and through quality surveys, diagnosis, evaluation, education, support and minimum insurance services, job creation and all sided rehabilitation access,

and the conditions for the integration of individuals with autism to society has been facilitated.

For further information on the Iran Autism Association visit: <https://irautism.org/>