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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.

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## 1- Refugees Rights

### 1-1 Facilitation on opening bank accounts for Afghan refugees and migrants in Iran

Afghan refugees and migrants who are living in Iran legally, from now on can renew their bank debit cards without any problems. In view of the problems that Afghan refugees and migrants have had, finally with the intervention of Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs of the Ministry of Interior (BAFIA) these problems were resolved. The director general of BAFIA while confirming this, announced that this matter has been communicated to all banks and credit institutes; and refugees and migrants who have valid residency documents can open bank accounts and receive debit cards without any problems.

This becomes important where with the cooperation of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) the Iranian government has provided health insurance coverage to more than 100 thousand Afghan refugees. Therefore, with this initiative they won't have any problems in the reimbursement of medical treatment supplemental benefits.

## **1-2 Creation of more facilities for the education of Afghan nationals in Iran**

Considering that Afghan refugees have been in Iran for nearly four decades, in spite of various problems and limitations, the Iranian government has tried to provide acceptable facilities in various areas i.e. from education to employment for refugees and migrants. To this aim, the presence of Afghan nationals who previously were not allowed to study some subjects, they are now allowed to study them, and as in the past Afghan nationals can take part in the nationwide university entrance exams just as Iranians do. Even in some instances their presence in universities, especially international ones such as the Qazvin International University has become easier.

Furthermore, according to special laws and regulations, these nationals have the opportunity to receive grants or bourse from the Iranian government and also UNHCR. It must be said that currently there are more than 40thousand Afghan students studying in different Iranian universities.



## 2- Right to Education

### 2-1 Literacy rates in the country rose to more than 96 percent

Since the establishment of the Literacy Movement Organization on 28 December 1979, the literate population in Iran has risen to over 96 percent from 52 percent. Furthermore, towards application of gender justice 80 percent of the activities of this Organization have been dedicated to women and girls. It must be said that before 1979 only 26.2 percent of women and girls in the 10-49 age group were literate, which currently the illiterate figures for the same group has dropped to less than 2.8 percent.

Furthermore, in view of problems and issues which exist in villages and remote areas, efforts have been made to expand education justice in these areas. To this aim the

literacy education gap between rural and urban regions has dropped from 38 percent in the 10-49 age range down to less than 7 percent.

Currently in view of the outbreak of COVID-19, the opportunity for online literacy education and also for foreign nationals have been brought about.

In addition to the above mentioned activities, the Literacy Movement Organization over the recent years has facilitated the education of 791,581 prisoners.

## **2-2 Free medical treatment for schoolchildren infected with COVID-19**

According to article 58 of the schools' executive guidelines, the country's Education and Training Department is obliged to provide accident insurance coverage for all schoolchildren across the country. In this regard this Department has tried to provide insurance coverage in all circumstances for schoolchildren as part of its civic duty and accidents and treatment.

At the same time, schoolchildren can as well as benefiting from death compensation, limb compensation, walk-in medical treatment expenses, operations, transplant costs and cochlear implantation costs, also benefit from free treatment of COVID-19.

It must be said that currently 14 million schoolchildren are studying in the country's schools. As well as

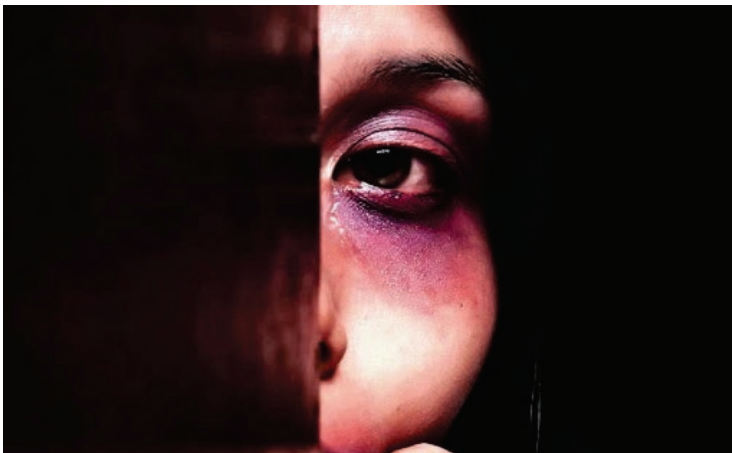
schoolchildren, all teachers and administrations also benefit from Education and Training insurance.

## **2-3 Conversion of 1,296 education environments for schoolchildren with movement disabilities**

With the cooperation of the Schools Renovation Organization, the Education and Training Department took steps in the conversion of 1,296 schools to facilitate ease of movement for schoolchildren with movement disabilities. These measures include installing wheelchair ramps, elevators, escalators and installment of suitable doors in schools and classrooms and installing suitable water drinking machines, and suitable lavatories for individuals with disabilities.

It must be said that currently there are 1,600 schools for students with special needs, 34 of which are boarding schools. Also there are 62 schools for autistic children, 23 for the blind, 26 for children with physical movement disabilities and 100 schools for the deaf across the nation.





### **3- Women's Rights**

#### **3-1 Expansion of setting up of safe houses for women domestic abuse victims**

Currently there are 23 safe houses across the nation for the protection of abused women. These houses have been created by the State Welfare Organization's crisis intervention centers and all women who for various social and family reasons do not have a place to stay and are under threat, such as women victims of domestic violence alongside abused and street women, benefit from the services of these centers free of charge. In these centers as well as suitable facilities, hot food and free counselling services are provided for abused women. To benefit from these services, following free advice through a telephone hotline (123) women can receive necessary information.



## **4 -Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

### **4-1 Assistance in the creation of shelters for families with disabled members**

With the cooperation of the State Welfare Organization 34thousand housing units for families who have members with disabilities, with consideration of necessary standards are in the completion process. These houses will soon be given to eligible applicants.

It must be said that since the formation of the State Welfare Organization to-date approximately 130thousand housing units have been given to the target community,

104thousand of which have been allocated to individuals with disabilities.

## **4-2 Theatre in the services of individuals with disabilities**

As well as the need for financial and treatment support, individuals with disabilities need peace, comfort and healing of their psychological pains. In this regard, theatrical director and psychology expert, Mr. Mir Kamal Mir Nasiri in an innovative move, has used State Welfare Organization's individuals with disabilities for a theatre performance, and claims that this method is very effective for the improvement of the mental health of these individuals. This project is currently underway in a pilot in Tehran with the participation of individuals with disabilities and if successful the programme will be implemented in other towns and cities.



## **5- Human Rights**

### **5-1 Release of the Haft Tapeh convicts**

The Judiciary has pardoned and released dozens of security prisoners that include those imprisoned for the October 2019 riots, journalists and workers of Haft Tapeh and a number of detainees from Labor Day.

To this aim, Fatemeh Khishvand also known as Sahar Tabar who due to three years of publication of films in violation of domestic laws and anti-norms behaviors and contrary to social norms had been arrested, was also released from prison.

### **5-2 Establishment of links with children and juveniles on the internet for sexual abuse added to the list of crimes**

In the 120<sup>th</sup> meeting of the determination of examples of criminal contents working group, the production,

distribution, advertising and promotion of offensive contents in which children and juveniles have been used (according to article 10(8) of the Protection of Children and Juveniles Act) are deemed as criminal examples and according this Act, action will be taken against those who break the law. As well as this, a number of other subjects were also approved by the working group members and added to criminal content examples:

- Publication of identity, information and secrets of abused or vulnerable children or juveniles,
- Publication of any form of content which encourages child abuse online,
- Establishment of links with child or juvenile on the internet for the purpose of sexual abuse,
- Activities of unauthorized news websites (with a reference to the Press Act).



## 6- Introduction of Human Rights Activists

### 6-1 Darolakram Charity Institute

The Darolakram Charity Institute is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political, transnational and transcendental Institute which was founded in 2001 with the aim of financial, educational, social, health, medical treatment and livelihood support for schoolchildren under coverage, to prevent them from dropping out of school. This Institute currently has more than 15 branches in different cities and provides services to individuals in need.

Darolakram mission statement:

- Protection of talented schoolchildren on the verge of dropping out, on the basis of wisdom, kindness and dignity.
- More than 17 years of activity and more than 2,500 schoolchildren and university students under coverage in 13 cities.

- The use of the most up-to-date computer, inherent human dignity, 100 percent financial transparency.
- Help in the elimination of children from dropping out of school problem in the most far reaching villages and regions of the country.
- Utilization of public financial and moral backing.

Darolakram perspective:

This Institute endeavors to ensure no child is deprived of education and training, social work, educational psychology because of poverty and or lack of a guardian. Towards reaching this goal the Institute will utilize the three principles of wisdom, kindness and dignity.

For further information on the Institute and its activities visit the following website:

<https://darolekram.com>