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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 of acceptance foreign nationals in higher education levels**

Towards support for education of foreign nationals at higher education levels, particularly Afghan migrants and refugees in Iran, various universities across the country have created various conditions and facilities and also are expanding these services and facilities. In this regard currently Pardis Hirmand in Sistan and Baluchistan Province has accepted more than 700 students and also this college has the capacity to accept more foreign students in medicine and nursing. The significance of increased capacity for foreign students by this college is that this province borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan thus students traveling to and from their countries will be easier if needed.

Furthermore, Zabol State University is considering in the near future to launch agricultural college of Zabol University in Hirmand provincial town.

## **1-2 Identification and helping foreign national child labourers in Iran Programme**

Considering that according to official surveys nearly 85 percent of child labourers in Iran are foreign nationals, especially Afghans, the State Welfare Organization in cooperation with other relevant departments has placed various programmes for the support of these children in its working agenda.

To this aim the recently the Sadaf Centre for Street Children in Mashhad city with the assistance of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) with budget of 2.5 billion rials has been equipped with various toys, books and other materials needed for children. In a visit made by the UNHCR official in Mashhad to this center, stated satisfaction in the quality of keeping street children in Mashhad.

In other provinces that include Tehran and Alborz also similar programmes are underway and in the future the acceptance capacity and provision of services to foreign child labourers will increase.

### **1-3 Renewal of residency of Afghan nationals in Iran**

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and livelihood problems particularly for Afghans who are working in Iran the Interior Minister accepted the renewal of residency and household passports until 30 January to continue for 45 days.

Also, for the speeding of the process doing the procedure, reduce costs and observation of health guidelines, Kefalat Centers (the residency and employment of foreign nationals services bureaus) will take the said passports and hand them over to Afghan consulates in Tehran, Mashhad and Zahedan for renewal. After processing these bureaus will return the documents to their owners.

### **1-4 Support for Afghan elites in Iran**

As the authority in charge of coordination and policy setting for foreign nationals and migrants, the Interior Ministry ratified the guidelines for supporting elites, experts and entrepreneurs in the Special Commission and dispatched to relevant bodies for implementation.

In the framework of these guidelines long-term residency will be given to foreign nationals who have the necessary conditions within the framework of the Commission, various citizenship facilities such as employment,

expropriations, driving license etc. for those eligible have been considered.

These migrants as well as being beneficial for the Islamic Republic, they can also be beneficial in their own countries. For example, this year after 30 years football coach and youth counsellor Rozma Ghafouri is the regional winner for Asia for UNHCR's annual Nansen Refugee Award for her work empowering Afghan refugee girls which is an honour for both Iran and Afghanistan.



## **2- Right to Education**

### **2-1 Giving 165thousand tablets to deprived students**

The Ministry of Education has placed in its working agenda a programme entitled “*Guidance Plan*”. This programme which with a slogan entitled “each student one tablet and each tablet one classroom and one school” was launch on the onset of COVID-19 and the closure of schools.

The programe is run in regions where due to financial problems children cannot afford smartphones or tablets, these items have been purchased for them and will be given to them so that they do not fall behind other students. In the first step more than 165thousand tablets have been given to deprived students and in the future the



purchase and distribution of tablets among students will speed up.

To this aim the Ministry of Education alongside 27 provincial governors have signed letter of agreement for the provision of half the cost of the purchase of smart education tools by governorships and through internal resources and in the framework of these letters of agreement funds for the purchase of one and half million tablets have been raised.



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

#### **3-1 President's administration passed a bill intended to help protect women against domestic and other forms of gender-based violence**

According to the government's website, quoting the Legal Deputy of the Cabinet of Ministers, in order to preserve the dignity of women, protect them against violence and strengthen the family unit and preservation of its dynasty, “the bill to Protect Women against Gender-Based Violence” has been approved.

The bill defines violence as “any behavior inflicted on women due to sexuality, vulnerable position, or type of relationship, and inflicts harm to their body, psyche, personality, and dignity, or restricts or deprives them of

legal rights and freedoms.” The bill includes various guidelines for holding government organizations accountable. The legislation requires the judiciary to allocate resources to support violence survivors and educate judges and other judiciary staff on violence issues. The judiciary is also advised to launch a fund to support violence survivors and imprisoned women. The launching of the protection of abused or vulnerable women fund by the Justice Ministry is with the aim of protection of groups in instances such as payment of *Diah* (Blood Money) in the event the woman has been murdered and the murderer is a man, and the relatives of the murdered woman for the purpose of doing retribution (Ghesas) are not able to pay the *Diah* and also provision of medical costs, life and occupation skills education during the imprisonment of women, is included in this bill.



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

### **4-1 Construction of 10,000 housing units for individuals with disabilities**

The *Mostaazafan* Foundation in a ceremony handed over 10,000 housing units to families who have individuals with disabilities. In a letter of understanding between the Foundation and State Welfare Organization, the construction of 14,000 housing units for families having a member with disabilities been accepted by the *Mostaazafan* Foundation, and the rest of the 4,000 units will soon be completed and be given to individuals with disabilities.

It must be said that in the past few months, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and also the State Welfare Organization also in various programmes have completed more than 100,000 housing units for individuals with disabilities and given them to those who are eligible.



## **5- Human Rights**

### **5-1 The opportunity for NGOs to attend courts and judicial departments**

The guidelines on modality of participation and interaction between NGOs and the Judiciary Branch was published by the Head of the Judiciary last year, has now become operational. According to these guidelines, NGOs can according to their field of activity, experience, and interest cooperate with the Judiciary Branch from policy setting stage to trials, reform of criminals and application of punishments. These guidelines increase the participation of NGOs in monitoring the rights of individuals.

The guidelines include 54 articles and according to its projection a website has been designed where NGOs can state their interest in participation.



## **6- Introduction of Human Rights Activists**

### **6-1 Abshar Atefehha Charity Organization**

The *Abshar Atefehha* Organization was founded in 2001 towards protection of persons in need through the efforts of a number of charitable individuals. From the onset of its activities this charity began with expertise views and expertise reviews and research view towards social and cultural problems, has endeavored to prepare the basis towards further providing services for the society's deprived.

The population supported by the Organization is 350thousand who receive various support services thorough around 4,000 personnel in 250 branches across the nation.

## Perspective

- 1 – Promotion of easy marriage and provision of young couple’s dowries across the nation
- 2 –Assisting more than 4,000 orphans in different “Orphans Whishes Ceremonies”.
- 3 – Distribution of food baskets to target community.
- 4 – Free medical treatment of terminal patients.
- 5 – Help to reduce social harms such as addiction.
- 6 – Holding cultural and religious ceremonies.
- 7 – Educational support for impoverished schoolchildren and students.
- 8 – Support for marginalized communities across the nation.
- 9 – Employment and job creation with provision of work investment by the *Navid* Fund.
- 10 – Setting up educational, religious, technical and professional workshops.
- 11 – Setting up economic resistance exhibits, and charity markets during special occasions.

This Organization is in consultative status to ECOSOC. For further information regarding the Organization and its activities visit: <https://www.absharatefeha.ir>